Selections from *Cincinnati Fourteen*

Volume 4

Cincinnati Miscellanea

The Society of the Cincinnati

The flag of the Society of the Cincinnati depicted on the diploma adopted by the first General Meeting held in Philadelphia, May, 1784. From Winslow Warren, *The Society of the Cincinnati: A History of the General Society of the Cincinnati with the Institution of the Order* (Boston: The Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati, 1929).

Selections from *Cincinnati Fourteen*

Volume 4

Cincinnati Miscellanea

© 2017

The Society of the Cincinnati

Selections from *Cincinnati Fourteen*

Volume 4

Cincinnati Miscellanea

Table of Contents

"The Diploma of the Society of the Cincinnati" 1
(Fall 2000, pages 8–14)

"The Society of the Cincinnati and the Sinking of the Titanic" 9
(Fall 2012, pages 30–37)

"Cincinnatus on Downing Street: Winston Churchill Joins the Society" 18
(Spring 2011, pages 10–15)

"The Society of the Cincinnati Chinese Export Porcelain" 25
(Spring 2012, pages 14–23)

"The Society of the Cincinnati Library: 'So Many Convenient Sources at One's Fingertips'" 36
(Winter 2007, pages 62–65)

"Benjamin Franklin and the Society of the Cincinnati" 42
(Spring 2015, pages 31–37)

"How Many Members Have Been Presidents of the United States?" 51
(Fall 2006, pages 126–28)

(Table of Contents, cont'd.)

"Fourteen at Fifty" 56
(Spring 2014, pages 4–15)

"Ask the Officers" 68
(Fall 2006, pages 8–9)

"Society History—How Well Do You Know Your Society?" 71
(Fall 2011, pages 96–101)

"The Silent Toast" 78
(Fall 2004, pages 112–14)

1783

CINCINNATI FOURTEEN

Newsletter of the Society of the Cincinnati

Fall 2000 Volume XXXVII, No. 1

Cincinnati Emblems

The Diploma of the Society of the Cincinnati

The Society of the Cincinnati's two principal emblems of membership, the Eagle and the diploma, were designed by Pierre Charles L'Enfant (1754-1825) soon after the Society was founded in 1783. The history of the Eagle has been eloquently told in the 1998 publication, *The Insignia of the Society of the Cincinnati* by Minor Myers, jr. This article will briefly examine the parallel history of the diploma.

Both the Eagle and diploma were first described in a letter from L'Enfant to General Steuben, the acting president of the Society, on 10 June 1783. Carefully seeking to balance the Society's republican ideals with the traditions of European military orders, L'Enfant proposed that the Society adopt an Order in the form of the American Bald Eagle bearing the emblems of Cincinnatus described in the Institution. In addition, L'Enfant suggested that every member be given a silver medal and a "diploma of parchment" stamped with the insignia.

It is not surprising that Steuben turned to the ambitious young Frenchman for advice. L'Enfant had arrived in America in 1777 at the age of 23 to volunteer his services to the American forces. His aptitude for drawing and design earned him an appointment as captain of engineers. As a member of Steuben's staff, he drew the illustrations for the legendary "Blue Book," the first authorized manual of the American army. He went on to serve with distinction in the South, rising to the rank of major before the war's end. An early and enthusiastic member of the Society, he signed the copy of the Institution known as the "Engineer's Roll" on 24 May 1783.

L'Enfant's proposals for the Eagle, medal and diploma were adopted on 19 June 1783 by the officers of the Society, who also accepted his offer to carry the "designs into execution." Believing that the work would be best accomplished by French artisans, L'Enfant made plans to travel back to his native country. Significantly, what could be considered the earliest certificate of Society membership is a handwritten testimonial signed by George Washington stating that L'Enfant was a member of the Society of the Cincinnati "charged with the execution of important business of said Society" while traveling in France.

L'Enfant departed from Philadelphia in early November 1783 aboard the Continental Navy ship *George Washington*. He arrived

Original diploma of John Morley Greene signed by Washington and Knox, presented to the Society's library by his great-great-great grandnephew Benjamin Josiah Linthicum III, a member of the Rhode Island Society. The printed text, approved by the General Meeting in May 1784 reads:

Be it known that _____is a Member of the Society of the Cincinnati; instituted by the Officers of the American Army at the Period of its Dissolution, as well to commemorate the great Event which gave Independence to North America, as for the laudable Purpose of inculcating the Duty of laying down in Peace Arms assumed for public Defense, and of uniting in Acts of brotherly Affection and bonds of perpetual Friendship the Members constituting the same.

In Testimony whereof I, the President of the said Society, have hereunto set my Hand at _____, in the State of _____, this _____day of _____, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and _____ and in the _____Year of the Independence of the United States.

By order,

_____Secretary. _____President.

in France on the eighth of December and immediately went to work on Cincinnati business. Before two weeks were out, he had secured the approval of Louis XVI for the admittance of French officers into the new Order. He also moved ahead in commissioning the manufacture of the Eagles and a copperplate for the diploma.

Before L'Enfant left America, Henry Knox had seen and approved his original sketch of the diploma, calling it in a letter to Washington a "noble effort of genius." Nevertheless, L'Enfant engaged the services of Augustin-Louis La Belle (1757-1841) to redraw his concept so that it could be accurately rendered as a copperplate engraving. La Belle, a member of a celebrated family of artists, had only recently returned to Paris from his studies in Rome, where his work had earned him the second Grand Prix in 1782. Following his Cincinnati commission, he would go on to a distinguished career as an artist, eventually succeeding his father as superintendent of the Gobelin factory.

For the engraving of the copperplate, L'Enfant turned to one of the foremost engravers of the day, Jean-Jacques Le Veau (1729-1786). Originally from Rouen, Le Veau had studied under the noted engravers La Bas and Le Mire, eventually establishing himself as one of the recognized masters of the field. Together, the talents of L'Enfant, La Belle, and Le Veau produced a finished work of great artistic merit. Its powerful iconography was vividly described by the 19th-century antiquarian Benson J. Lossing in his *Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution* (II, 128):

> The design represents American Liberty as a strong man armed, bearing in one hand the Union Flag, and in the other, a naked sword. Beneath his feet are British flags, and a broken spear, shield and chain. Hovering by his side is the eagle, our national emblem, from whose talon the lightning of destruction is flashing upon the British lion. Britannia, with the crown falling from her head, is hastening toward a boat to escape to a fleet, which denotes the departure of British power from our shores. Upon a cloud, on the right is an angel blowing a trumpet, from which flutters a loose scroll. Upon the scroll are the sentences: "*Palam nuntiata libertatis A. D. 1776. Fodus sociale cum Gallia, An. D. 1778. Pax: libertas parta An. D. 1783.*" (Independence declared A. D. 1776. Treaty of Alliance with France declared, A. D. 1778. Peace: independence obtained A. D. 1783.)

The diploma also includes an impression of the Eagle and two circular medallions replicating L'Enfant's design for the silver medal, planned as a third emblem of membership but never actually struck.

L'Enfant returned to America in time to present the finished Eagles and copperplate for the diploma to the Society's first General Meeting, which was held in Philadelphia in

May 1784. The engraved plate that L'Enfant delivered from France did not include the printed text. A committee was quickly assigned to compose the wording, which was approved by the delegates on May 17. (See illustration caption, p 2.)

The job of adding the text to the French-engraved plate was given to Robert Scot (1744?-1823) of Philadelphia, who later became engraver to the newly established United States Mint. Society accounts also record payment to a Thomas W. Collins for "writing" the text in an elegant hand so that it could be copied by the engraver. It was not until November 1784 that Scot completed his work and printed the first batch of 100 diplomas on parchment.

The printed blank diplomas were, as a rule, signed by Washington and Knox (as President and Secretary) and then delivered to the state secretaries to be inscribed to the individual members. The first group of blank diplomas was sent to Washington at Mount Vernon on January 24, 1785, by General Otho Holland Williams, Assistant Secretary to the General Society, who requested that Washington sign them for members of the Pennsylvania Society. Washington's prompt response is recorded in his diary entry for a snowy February 2, 1785: "Employed myself (there could be no stirring without) in signing 83 Diplomas for the members of the Society of the Cincinnati, and sent them to the care of Colo. Fitzgerald

L'Enfant's original watercolor sketch for the Society of the Cincinnati diploma, 1783. From the Society of the Cincinnati Archives.

in Alexandria, to be forwarded to General Williams of Baltimore."

Washington wrote to Williams the same day to let him know that the signed diplomas were on their way back to him. But neither Washington's letter nor the diplomas ever reached their destination. In April, Williams learned from authorities in Baltimore that several blank Society diplomas bearing Washington's signature had been found in the possession of an inmate of the city jail. An interview with the man led Williams to a desolate part of town where, he wrote: "I never saw a more abandoned set of Mortals of both Sexes collected together. After an hours fruitless search I went from thence to the Stage office but could not find any Letter receipt for the delivery." Although pessimistic about ever recovering the rest of the diplomas, Williams was hopeful they would not be used for false purposes: "Those I found were much abused—dirty—rumpled, and bore no marks of forgery, and from the situation in which a wretched old Woman shewed me the others had been, it is impossible that they could be fit for the uses intended."

This initial setback did not dissuade Washington from continuing to sign groups of diplomas for the

A Cincinnati Artist

George Turner, whose watercolor rendition of the Eagle (reverse side) appears on the cover, was Assistant Secretary General (1787-1791). The imagery of the center medallion is described in the 1783 Institution: "Sun Rising — city with open gates, and vessels entering the port — Fame crowning CINCINNATUS with a wreath, inscribed VIRTUTIS PRAEMIUM. Below HANDS JOINED, SUPPORTING A HEART, with the motto, ESTO PERPETUA. Round the whole, SOCIETAS CINCINNATORIUM INSTITUTA. A.D. 1783."

An original member of the South Carolina Society, Turner was delegate to the first General Meeting of the Society in 1784 and served on the committee that drafted the text that appears on the Society's diploma. He also oversaw the engraving of the text onto the copperplate L'Enfant brought from France and the printing of the first certificates on parchment. Turner was born in England around 1750 and came to America when young. He served in the 1st South Carolina Regiment from 1775 to the close of the war, attaining the rank of brevet-major on 30 September 1783. In 1789, Turner was appointed to a judgeship in the Northwest Territory, a position he held until 1797. He died in Philadelphia in 1843.

individual states, although from then on the precious cargo was entrusted only to a representative of the Society. The Pennsylvania Society quickly regrouped with a request for signatures on 250 new diplomas, which were hand-delivered by the state society Secretary Richard Fullerton on October 31, 1785. Major James Fairlie visited Mount Vernon for several days the following December, departing on the 12th with 251 signed diplomas for the New York Society. Washington's diaries and correspondence record subsequent signings for several other state societies, among them, New Jersey (6 November 1786), South Carolina (5 April 1787), Delaware (27 April 1787), Rhode Island (17 September 1787), and France (7 August 1790).

The name of the recipient of the diploma was generally filled in by the appropriate state Secretary, and the surviving examples vary greatly in form and calligraphy. In September 1789, General Society Secretary George Turner instructed Nicholas Gilman of the New Hampshire Society on the form he preferred:

> to preserve uniformity in filling up the diplomas (a business I must now leave to yourself)…I have hitherto inserted, with the name of the member, the rank which he bore at the end of the war; together with the corps to which he belonged. If an honorary member, we insert his name only, unless he fills, or has filled some honourable appointment in the state or U.States. This forms a necessary discrimination between the men of the sword, or members of right, and those who are admitted of grace.

Two years earlier, however, the Virginia Society had passed a resolution that the "1st Blank" on the diploma would be inscribed with "the name of the member applying for the Diploma, and the words 'Esquire of the Commonwealth of Virginia,'" without any reference to military service or rank.

The dating of the diplomas also varied from state to state. In the same resolution, passed on April 24, 1787, the Virginia Society decreed that from thenceforth every diploma issued to a member of the Virginia Society would be inscribed with the place and date: Mount Vernon, Virginia, 1 March 1787. Similarly, the Pennsylvania and New York diplomas are marked uniformly with the date Washington signed, regardless of when they were actually issued to the members. Several surviving diplomas issued to members of the Rhode Island Society, on the other hand, bear the date 1 January 1784—predating L'Enfant's arrival from France with the copperplate.

L'Enfant's hope that a diploma would be given to every member was dashed by financial realities. To offset the costs of parchment, print-

ing and travel, most of the state societies charged their members a fee to acquire a diploma. The earliest subscribers from the Pennsylvania Society paid $1.00 each, while New York members were assessed 24 shillings. In Massachusetts in 1794 the price for a diploma was reduced from $4.00 to $2.00, with an order to use the proceeds to refund the difference to any member who had paid the higher price.

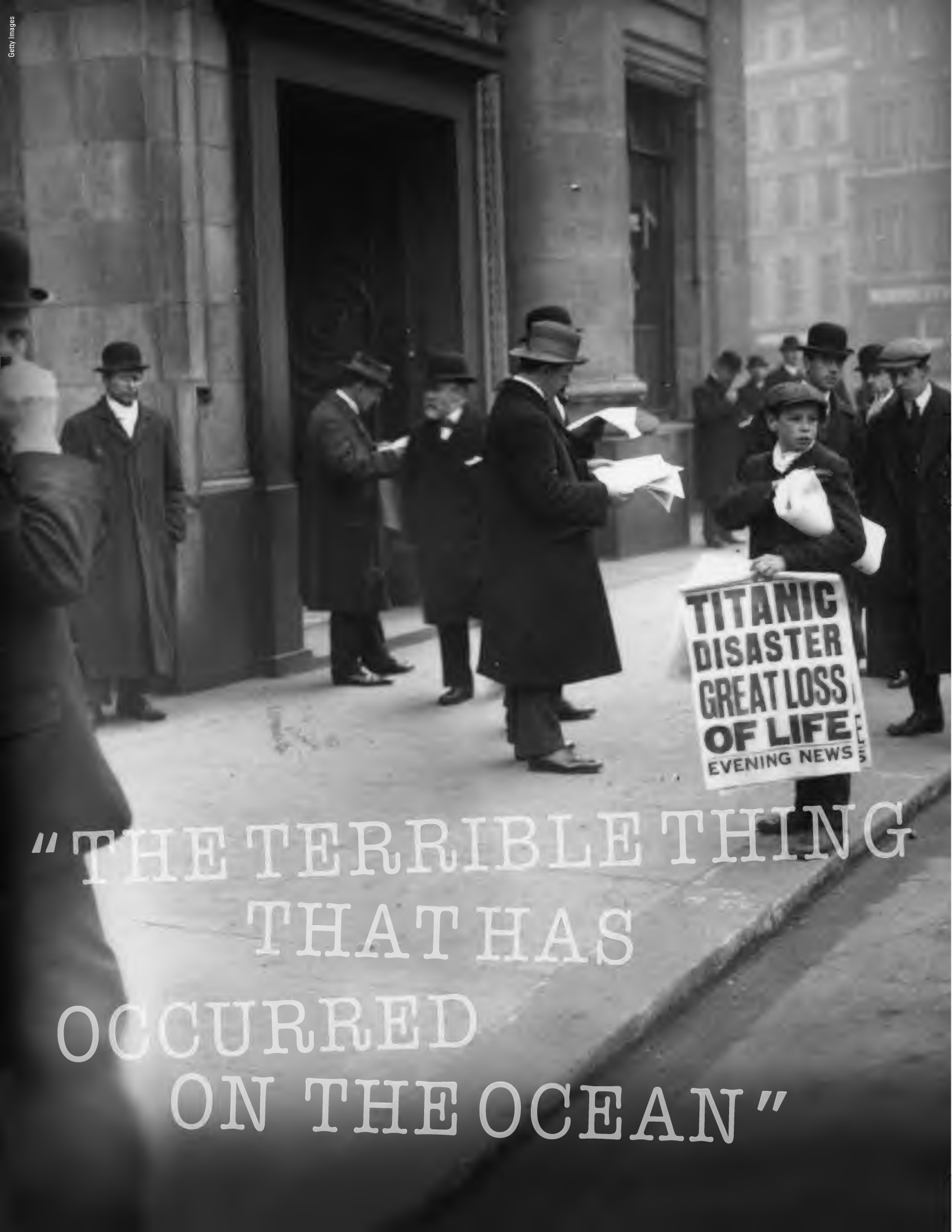
Following Washington's death in 1799, several of the state societies adopted their own membership certificates. While most closely resembled L'Enfant's design, the text was altered to reflect the status of a successor member, the state society affiliation, and the change in the century. A surplus of original diplomas signed by Washington and Knox remained in the archives of several societies. New York Society records show that during the early part of the 19th century, some of the Washington and Knox-signed copies were still being issued to members. James Davidson, "late Commissary General Hospital Department," who did not join the Society until 1811, paid the New York Society treasury $5.00 for an original diploma in May 1812. Commodores Stephen Decatur and William Bainbridge, made honorary New York members in 1813, were each issued one of the precious Washington and Knox-signed diplomas. The minutes of the New Jersey Society record that in 1814, 27 signed blank diplomas were deposited in the State Bank at Elizabeth; 25 of these remained in the "Treasurer's trunk" when an inventory was taken in 1826.

In a circular letter to the state society presidents dated 31 October 1786, Washington wrote that he would be "constantly ready to sign such Diplomas as may be requisite for the Members of your State Society, being sincerely desirous of giving every possible proof of attachment, esteem & affection for them." The return of these sentiments by the membership is well demonstrated in the number of original diplomas that have survived, treasured by generations of descendants and collectors. In addition to the original copperplate in the Society's archives, the Library collection includes several original diplomas bearing Washington's signature. The staff is also maintaining a census of diplomas in other institutional and private collections. Anyone with information about existing Society of the Cincinnati diplomas is encouraged to write to the author at the Society of the Cincinnati Library, 2118 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008.

Ellen McCallister Clark
Public Services Librarian

Journal of The Society of the Cincinnati
Fall 2012
Volume 49, No. 1

CINCINNATI FOURTEEN



"THE TERRIBLE THING
THAT HAS
OCCURRED
ON THE OCEAN"

Getty Images

THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI AND THE SINKING OF THE *Titanic*

by Ellen McCallister Clark

The sinking of the *Titanic* on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York, April 15, 1912, shook the world. Several members of the Society of the Cincinnati were directly affected by the tragedy, including two Society members who were among the more than 1,500 people who perished when the great ship went down.

One of the best known among the first-class passengers lost was **Archibald Willingham Butt**, a military aide to President Taft, who had joined the Society of the Cincinnati only the year before. Archie Butt was born in Augusta, Georgia, in 1865, the year the Civil War ended. He graduated from the University of the South and began his career as a newspaperman. He entered the U.S. Army in 1898, during the Spanish-American War, and later served in the Philippines and Cuba. In 1908, he was appointed military aide to President Theodore Roosevelt, and he stayed on to serve President Taft in the same capacity after Taft's inauguration in March 1909. A true diplomat, Butt remained a devoted friend of both presidents and their families, despite the bitter political differences that would divide the Republican Party by the next election.

Archie Butt was also a popular member of Washington society, and his name is found on Larz and Isabel Anderson's lists of dinner guests at Anderson House. He became a member of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Georgia in 1911, the first to represent the line of his great-great-great-grandfather, Lt. Robert Moseley.

In the spring of 1912, suffering from fatigue and at President Taft's urging, Butt planned a trip to Europe with his friend, the artist Francis Davis Millet, who was head of the American Academy in Rome. In a letter to his sister-in-law Clara (Mrs. Lewis F. Butt), he announced his plans to travel, noting with eerie foreboding, "if the old ship goes down you will find my affairs in shipshape condition."

After a month in Europe, Archie Butt and Frank Millet embarked on their return home aboard the much-heralded *Titanic*. When the ship struck an iceberg on the night of April

Archibald Willingham Butt (Georgia Society), military aide to President Taft and a friend of Larz and Isabel Anderson, provided much-needed leadership in getting women and children on to the *Titanic* lifeboats.
Library of Congress Collection.

14, the fate of the two friends was sealed. According to eyewitness accounts, neither man made any attempt to save himself in the resulting chaos. Instead, survivors describe the calm leadership of Major Butt as he enforced the rule of "women and children first" onto the lifeboats. After her rescue, Mrs. Henry B. Harris told a reporter, "I stayed until almost the last and know what a man Archie Butt was. They put me in a collapsible boat. I was

one of three women from the first cabin in it. The rest were steerage people. Major Butt helped those poor frightened steerage people so wonderfully, tenderly and yet with such cool and manly firmness. He was a soldier to the last."

In an official statement from the White House, President Taft wrote: "On the deck of the *Titanic*, he was exactly as he was everywhere else. After I heard that part of the ship's company had gone down, I gave up hope for the rescue of Major Butt, unless by accident. I knew he would certainly remain on the ship's deck until every duty had been performed and every sacrifice made that properly fell on one charged, as he would feel charged, with responsibility for the rescue of others." President Taft also traveled to Augusta, Georgia, to speak at Archibald Butt's memorial service, which was attended by 1,500 people.

Titanic survivors recalled seeing Major Butt standing on the sloping deck of the ship in the company of several other prominent first-class passengers, including a fellow Cincinnatus, **Arthur Larned Ryerson.** Arthur Ryerson had joined the New Jersey Society in 1883, representing the line of his grandfather Lt. Thomas Ryerson. Born in Chicago in 1851, he had witnessed as a young man the destruction of his family's home in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. The heir to a Chicago steel company fortune, Ryerson received bachelor's and master's degrees from Yale and a law degree from Columbia, preferring the practice of law to the family business. He was a resident of Haverford, Pennsylvania, when, in the spring of 1912, he and his wife, with three of their children, took a trip abroad.

While traveling in France the Ryersons received word that their oldest son, Arthur, Jr., had died in an automobile accident back in the United States. The grieving father immediately arranged for his family's return home, undoubtedly feeling fortunate to book passage on the maiden voyage of the *Titanic*. When disaster struck, Arthur Ryerson gave up his lifejacket to his wife's maid, Victorine Chaudanson, and insisted that his wife, the three children, a governess, and Miss Chaudanson board lifeboat 4 without him. There was a last-minute panic when one of the *Titanic* crew tried to prevent Ryerson's thirteen-year-old son Jack from getting on the lifeboat, saying he was too old, but the father fiercely demanded that the boy be allowed to go with his mother.

Mrs. Ryerson later recalled her last sight of her husband, standing on deck waving his cap and calling out words of encouragement as their lifeboat was lowered. After the Ryerson entourage was safely on board the rescuing ship *Carpathia*, lifeboat 4 returned to look for more survivors, but Arthur Ryerson was never found. A plaque to his memory in the Ryerson family plot at Lakewood Cemetery in Cooperstown, New York, reads: "Lost on S.S. *Titanic*, April 15, 1912, Giving His Life for Others."

"I knew he would certainly remain on the ship's deck until every duty had been performed and every sacrifice made that properly fell on one charged...with responsibility for the rescue of others."

—William Howard Taft on Archibald Butt

John Borie Ryerson, who boarded the lifeboat with his mother and sisters, grew up to succeed his father as a member of the New Jersey Society, joining in 1924. He rarely spoke of his *Titanic* experience, although he did give an interview to Walter Lord, who

wrote in *A Night to Remember* (1959): "Jack Ryerson searched his mind to recall how he felt as he stood to one side, while his father argued to get him into boat 4. Did he realize his life was hanging in the balance? No, he didn't think very much about it. He was an authentic 13-year-old boy."

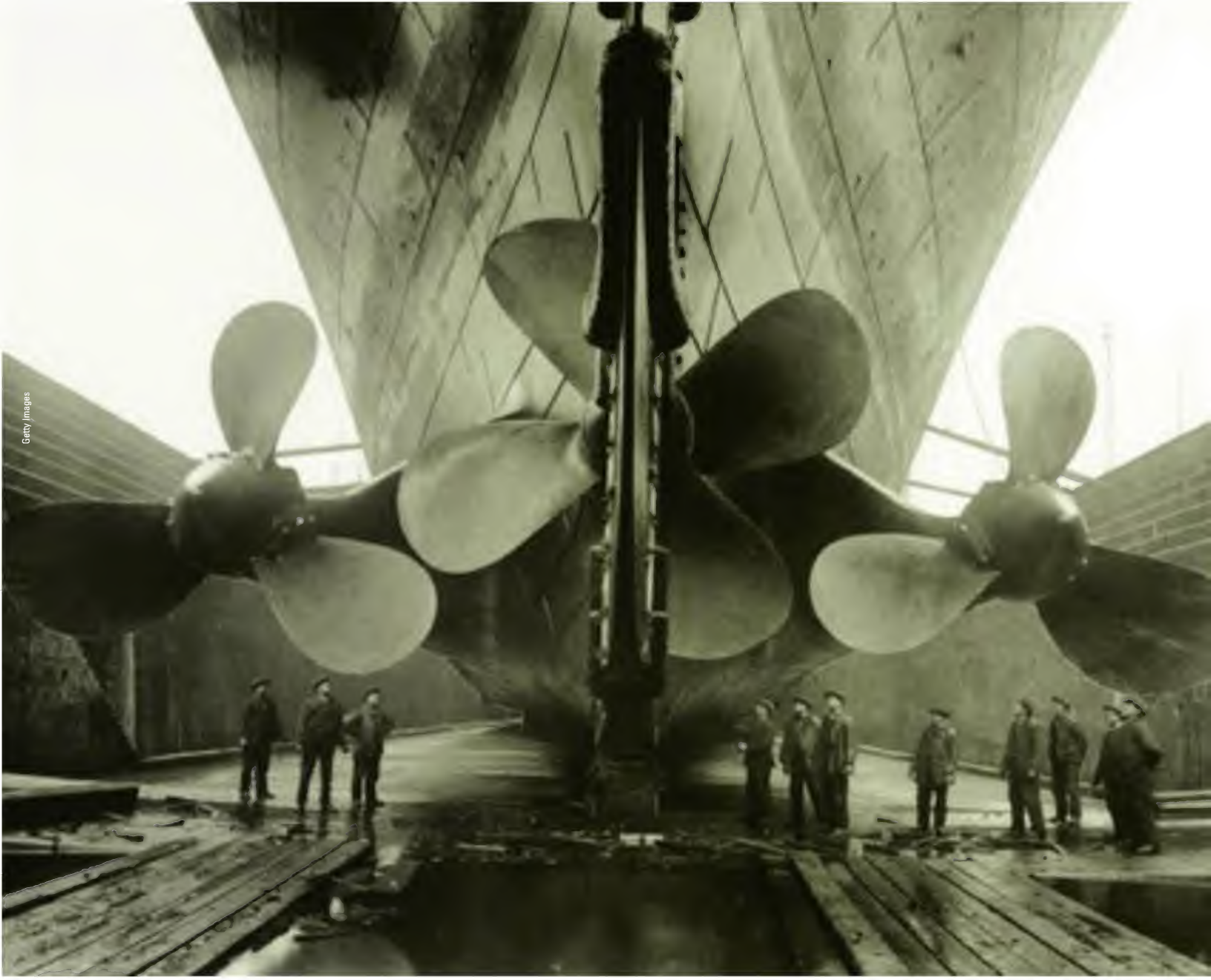
Another future Society member on board the *Titanic* was **Robert Williams Daniel**, a twenty-seven-year-old banker from Philadelphia, who was traveling home with a prized French bulldog he had bought in Europe. When the ship first struck the iceberg, ice and snow tumbled onto the deck and a fellow passenger recalled joining him in a snowball fight. But when the gravity of the situation soon made itself evident, Daniel managed to get onto one of the lifeboats rescued by the *Carpathia*. The exact details of Daniel's last moments on deck are unclear; in interviews, he told of jumping into the icy water and swimming away from the sinking ship before being picked up by the lifeboat, but other accounts suggest he was in the lifeboat when it was lowered. On board the *Carpathia,* Daniel met fellow survivor, Eloise Hughes Smith, whose husband of just two months had been lost in the sinking. Robert Daniel and Eloise Smith were married in 1914–and though they strove to keep a very low profile, the story of the marriage of two *Titanic* survivors became front-page news. The couple was divorced in 1923, and both went on to marry two more times.

A member of a distinguished Virginia family, Daniel returned to his native state in 1928 and purchased historic Brandon Plantation on the James River. He held several positions in the Virginia state government and was elected to the State Senate in 1935. He joined the Virginia branch of the Society in 1936, as the great-great-grandnephew of Lt. Col. George Nicholas of the 11th Virginia Regiment. According to family members, he felt the stigma of being an able-bodied male survivor of the *Titanic,* and he rarely discussed it. When he died in 1940, no mention of his *Titanic* experience was made in his obituary in the Richmond paper.

Sidney Frederick Tyler was a four-year-old boy living in the suburbs of Philadelphia when his young world intersected with the one of the *Titanic* disaster's most sensational stories. A few weeks after the *Carpathia* brought the shipwreck survivors to New York, two young French-speaking boys, Michel and Edmond Navratil, came to stay with the Tyler family. Dubbed "The Waifs of the Deep," the Navratil brothers, ages four and two, had been the subject of intense press coverage since they had arrived in New York, identities unknown, in the care of first-class passenger Margaret Hays.

Through Miss Hays' tireless efforts to publicize their plight, the boys' story eventually unfolded. They were the children of Michel Navratil, a tailor from Slovakia, and his wife Marcelle Caretto, a seamstress from Italy, who had settled in Nice in the south of France. Their father had separated from their mother and was in the process of obtaining a divorce, when he fled to London with the boys. Once there, he booked second-class passage on the *Titanic* for himself and his sons, under the assumed name of Louis Hoffman. On board he implied that he was a widower to fellow passengers, who remembered him as a doting father with happy boys.

As the ship foundered, Navratil wrapped his sons in all the clothing they owned, placed them on a lifeboat, and then retreated into the crowd on deck. Margaret Hays, who was already in the lifeboat, witnessed the father's wrenching



Titanic's massive bronze propellers weighed several tons each.

farewell and took charge of the terrified brothers. Once they were in New York, she alerted the French consulate and saw that their photographs were circulated widely. When Marcelle Navratil, still in Nice, heard the reports of the *Titanic* "orphans," she recognized the name Louis Hoffman as that of a neighbor and contacted British authorities with proof that she was the boys' mother.

The *Titanic*'s owner, The White Star Line, made arrangements for Mrs. Navratil to travel to the United States, and while the boys were waiting for her arrival they were sent to stay with their mother's first cousin, Rose Bruno, who happened to be employed as governess to Sidney Tyler and his sister.

Sidney Tyler never forgot the brief but happy time he spent with the two young visitors, whom he knew as Lolo and Momon. He graduated from Harvard, began his career in the investment business, served in the air force during World War II, and finally settled as a rancher in Colorado. He joined the Connecticut Society in 1951, representing his great-great-great grandfather, Capt. Daniel Tyler of the 3rd Connecticut Regiment. In 1978, at age

Edmond and Michel Navratil, the "orphans" of the *Titanic*, lived briefly with future Society member Sidney Tyler after the disaster.

seventy-one, Tyler set out on a quest to find out what had become of his childhood friends. He finally located Michel Navratil, who was a retired professor of psychology living in Montpellier, France, and he learned from him that Edmond had died in 1953 at the age of forty-three. After a flurry of correspondence, Sidney Tyler traveled to France to visit Michel Navratil, almost seven decades after the two had met as four-year-olds. In 1981, Tyler published a limited-edition book about their reunion titled *A Rainbow, of Time and of Space*. Sidney Tyler died in 1993. Michel Navratil lived to age ninety-two; when he died on January 30, 2001, he was the last male survivor of the *Titanic* disaster.

Across the Atlantic in England, another future Society of the Cincinnati member had his own brush with the *Titanic* story. **Fredrick William Lightfoot** was a seven-year-old boy in Cornwall in 1912, when his father, who had immigrated to the United States, sent for his wife and children to join him. Mr. Lightfoot booked passage for his family on the *Titanic*, but the tickets, which were mailed, did not arrive in time to use. Mrs. Lightfoot and the children traveled to America on another ship later that year. Young Fred Lightfoot became a U.S. citizen, and in 1941

enlisted in the navy, serving in the Pacific during World War II. In 1946, he joined the staff at Anderson House, serving as the house manager until his retirement in 1978. He was a person much admired and beloved by members and staff, and in 1975 he was made an honorary member of the New Jersey Society.

One hundred years after the tragedy, the *Titanic* remains a subject of intense public fascination. Countless pages of print, reels of film and bytes of the Internet have been devoted to sorting out the facts from the fiction of one of the most famous disasters of the early twentieth century. Society member **Larz Anderson,** who was serving as the U.S. minister to Belgium in 1912, faced the crisis as an American diplomat and as a private citizen who lost several friends. In a letter to his mother, written on April 19, 1912, he captured the horror and hopelessness that was felt around the world:

The realities of the "Titanic" disaster, of the terrible thing that has occurred on the ocean is coming very slowly to me, to us: we are overcome by it! I have simply not believed it possible and have denied its probability, saying I couldn't think it true, for the ships nowadays couldn't sink like that: it did not seem it could be so, but it is slowly coming Home to us that an awful thing has happened— as if the Lord wished to show man that he was presuming too far in his pride of great ships and science. We haven't yet sure details—the papers here have only repeated the wild rumors at home—but enough is known to break the heart.

*This article was adapted from a talk the author gave in June 2012. Special thanks go to the following members who contributed stories of Society-*Titanic *connections: Thomas Heard Robertson, Jr.; Edward Archer Leake, Jr.; William Hershey Greer, Jr.; Cordell Lee Bragg III, Minor Tompkins Weisiger; and John Augustine Washington. The Society's library collection also includes a compact disc,* Last Waltz on the Titanic, *featuring early recordings of music known to have been played aboard the fateful ship, compiled by member Nicholas Donnell Ward.*

Journal of The Society of the Cincinnati
Spring 2011
Volume 47, No. 2

CINCINNATI FOURTEEN

Cincinnatus on Downing Street

Winston Churchill Joins the Society

By Ellen McCallister Clark

Members of the Cincinnati enjoy pointing out that the great British statesman Sir Winston Churchill was admitted as a *hereditary* (not honorary) member of the Society. And it is evident from Churchill's remarks and writings that he too quite enjoyed this fact. The Society has recently received from the Sir Winston Churchill Archives Trust copies of his correspondence with the Society, which fill out our knowledge of the details of his membership.

Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill was born at Blenheim Palace on November 30, 1874. His father was Lord Randolph Henry Spencer Churchill, a descendant of John Churchill, the first duke of Marlborough who was Queen Anne's commander during the War of Spanish Succession. His mother was Jeanette (called Jennie) Jerome of Brooklyn, the daughter of Leonard Jerome, a New York financier and sometime editor of the *New York Times*, and his wife, the former Clara Hall.

At least four of Churchill's direct maternal ancestors fought on the American side during the War of Independence: Two of his ancestors, Samuel Jerome and Ambrose Hall, served in the Berkshire County (Massachusetts) militia; another great grandfather was Maj. Lebbeus Ball of the 4th Massachusetts Continental Regiment; and a great-great grandfather through the Jerome side, Lt. Reuben Murray, served in the Connecticut line and in the Connecticut and New York militias. According to his grandson and namesake, who edited a selection of Churchill's writings on America, Churchill had no ancestors who fought on the British side during the conflict he famously described as the "War between Us and We."

Churchill was clearly proud of his American ancestry and he made the most of it in cementing the United States' "Special Relationship" with Great Britain during his terms as prime minister. Both he and President Franklin Roosevelt took pleasure in noting the fact that they were distant cousins.

The president general and the prime minister posed for this photograph for posterity after the formal presentation was complete.

In his first address to a joint session of the U. S. Congress in 1941, Churchill quipped: "Had my father had been American and my mother British, instead of the other way 'round, I might have got here on my own!" And that same year, when accepting an honorary degree from the University of Rochester, he brought up his Revolutionary War roots, saying, "I expect I was on both sides then, and I must say I feel on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean now."

So it is not surprising that the Society of the Cincinnati, in the glow of the allied victory in World War II, sought out Churchill for membership. The invitation came in the form of a letter, dated April 12, 1947, from Col. Bryce Metcalf, who was then both president of the Connecticut Society and president general:

Sir,
Permit me to write to you of The Society of the Cincinnati, founded by General George Washington

and his fellow officers of the Continental Army in 1783, an hereditary order that still flourishes ….

It is a source of great satisfaction to report to you that the Society holds you to be eligible to hereditary membership in the right of your ancestor, Lieutenant Reuben Murray of Burrall's Regiment, such membership being in the Society in the State of Connecticut, where Lt. Murray received his Continental commission….

Colonel Metcalf continued with details about membership and then closed with:

I should like to add that I am also President General of the entire Society and take especial pride in assuring you of the general gratification which will be felt throughout the order if you consent to be the first Englishman ever to be elected an hereditary member.

Churchill did indeed accept membership in the Connecticut Society in 1947, which made the news around the country. The library has a packet of newspapers clippings of the coverage, whose headlines range from approving—"Worthy of Cincinnatus" wrote the *Olean* (N.Y.) *Times Herald*—to bemused—"Rebel Winnie" in the *Grand Rapids Press.*

It was not until almost five years later that opportunity arose for Churchill to meet with the Society and receive its emblems of membership—the Eagle and the diploma. Unfortunately, Colonel Metcalf, his fellow Connecticut Society member, did not live to witness this great occasion. Bryce Metcalf died in October 1951, and in November of that year, another stalwart of the Society, Gen. Edgar Erskine Hume, was elected president general. It fell to Hume to seize the moment, with Churchill's announced visit to meet with President Truman in January 1952, to invite him to Anderson House. On January 7, 1952, General Hume wrote to Churchill:

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

Arrangements have been made, with your approval, for the presentation to you of the Eagle and Diploma of hereditary membership in the Society of the Cincinnati. The ceremony will take place at Anderson House, 2118 Massachusetts Avenue, Headquarters of the Cincinnati, on 16 January 1952 at 5 o'clock.

Your fellow members of this old Society feel that there can be no more appropriate way to demonstrate the common ideals which unite the British and American peoples than by investing Britain's first Minister with the badge of a military order of which General Washington was the first President General. Throughout the 169 years of the existence of the Society of the Cincinnati the example of Cincinnatus of old has been revered. Washington, whom Lord Byron called the

Cincinnatus of the West, left all to serve the Republic, and thus our order derives its motto. You too, Mr. Prime Minister, have demonstrated to mankind your own willingness and that of the gallant Nation that you lead, to sacrifice all for principle. Your name will illuminate our rolls with undying brightness beside other great men who have been members of this body.

The Churchill archives include a fascinating memo written by the prime minister's press secretary about the arrangements for the Anderson House visit. The whole event was supposed to take place in less than an hour. After the presentation of the Eagle and the Churchill's brief remarks in the Ballroom, the prime minister and General Hume were to retire to the adjacent Great Stair Hall for official photographs. There were 140 people in attendance, including Vice President of the United States Alben Barkley and the Chief Justice of the United States, Frederick Moore Vinson, who was himself an honorary member of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia. In addition to other officials from the U.S. government and the British Embassy, leaders of the Society of the Cincinnati were invited. Because of space limitations, no spouses were included, which made it male-only affair. After photographs, Prime Minister Churchill and General Hume rejoined the assembled guests for refreshments of "champagne and whiskey."

In these stills taken from the Fox Movietone newsreel, President General Hume welcomes Churchill, then presents him with his Eagle on a neck ribbon. Churchill then offered some brief remarks, lasting less than a minute, and then accepted the applause of his fellow members.

Society of the Cincinnati Library

The press secretary's memo noted:

The hall in which the ceremony is to be held is perfectly adapted for publicity. There is a lofty gallery at the far end of the hall.... There is room in the gallery for reporters, news reel cameras and television cameras. The Information Service is considering whether it would be desirable to have all these present. Their only doubt is about television, because there will be a great deal of this on the following day when the Prime Minister addresses Congress and it might be better, in this particular medium, to do nothing which could detract attention from the more important of the two occasions.

The Anderson House event apparently did not make the evening's television news—but cameramen from Fox Movietone News were there. The segment showing Churchill receiving his Eagle was never used in the movie theater newsreels of Churchill's 1952 visit to America, but a brief bit of footage, literally taken from the cutting room floor, was sent to the Society and is preserved in the library. In the one-minute, nineteen-second clip, Churchill is captured near the end of his remarks and speaking without a note, saying:

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the kindness which you have shown me. I value this honor and let it be a help to all of those forces—they are, in my opinion, irresistible forces—which draw our two nations together; not for any unworthy purpose of combination or gathering strength, but in order that we may defend the freedom of the world.

The presentation of Churchill's Eagle capped Edgar Erskine Hume's long and distinguished service to the Society of the Cincinnati. A physician and military officer who served in both world wars, he was also the author of more than fifty books, many of them about aspects of the history of the Society. He was a devoted member of the Virginia Society, and for more than twenty years held offices in his state and with the General Society. Presiding over Churchill's visit was Hume's first major act upon assuming the office of president general, and sadly, it proved to be his last—he died, suddenly, at Anderson House, eight days later on January 24, 1952.

Churchill, who was seventy-seven at the time of the presentation, lived on for more than a decade. Although he never again met with the Society, he remained a hereditary member in good standing and his papers confirm that he retained an interest in the Society's activities. In 1963, when a call went out for members to send copies of books they had written to establish the "Member Author" collection, Churchill sent an autographed copy of his biography of his father, *Lord Randolph Churchill*, which is now preserved in the library vault.

Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill died on January 24, 1965, thirteen years to the day after General Hume. Just this year, the Massachusetts Society has announced with pleasure that it has admitted one of Churchill's grandsons, Duncan John Winston Sandys, to membership in the right another of his Revolutionary War patriot ancestors, Major Lebbeus Ball, thus reviving this special Anglo-American relationship.

Baltimore Sun editorial cartoonist Richard Q. Yardley poked good-natured fun at Churchill's Anglo-American family history in this January 19, 1952, cartoon (though in fact Churchill had no direct ancestors who fought on the British side of the American Revolutionary War). Yardley points to a major purpose of Churchill's visit: to shore up Anglo-American friendship strained by rivalry over influence in the Middle East. A few month's earlier, Britain had rebuffed Egypt's bid to dissolve the treaty granting Britain continuing authority over the Suez Canal. The United States, nursing its alliance with Saudi Arabia, opposed Britain's intransigence over control of the canal. The little man with the beret and the scrawny cat—here refusing service in Britain's overseas army in Suez—is Yardley's self caricature, a recurring figure in his cartoons.

Journal of The Society of the Cincinnati
Spring 2012
Volume 48, No. 2

CINCINNATI FOURTEEN

THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI

Chinese Export Porcelain

by Lindsay E. Borst

Samuel Shaw (center) appears to have taken one of Pierre L'Enfant's early watercolor sketches of the Eagle (top) to China on his first voyage. The earliest Cincinnati porcelain depicts the ribbon hanger attached to the bird's head. On later versions of the porcelain, the Eagle is depicted with the laurel wreath as it appeared on the medals delivered in 1784 like the Tilghman Eagle at bottom. Society of the Cincinnati Museum and Library Collections,

Chinese export porcelain bearing the Eagle insignia of the Society of the Cincinnati is prized by museums and collectors around the world. The best known pattern is the blue-and-white bordered dinner and tea services owned by George Washington and the tea services made for ten members of the Massachusetts Society, but there are several other designs made for individual services about which less is known. The Society's collections contain nine pieces of this porcelain—artifacts of the trade between China and the new republic, of the history of the Society of the Cincinnati, and the lives of the men who owned them.

Shaw's aim was to acquire "something emblematic of the institution of the order of the Cincinnati executed upon a set of porcelain."

The central character in the story of the Cincinnati porcelain is Samuel Shaw, an original member of the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati and a prominent figure in the China trade. Shaw was born in Boston on October 2, 1754. At the beginning of the Revolutionary War, he joined William Heath's Massachusetts regiment in May 1775 and was aide-de-camp to Gen. Henry Knox during the final year of the war. Shaw served as secretary of the committee of officers who formed the Society of the Cincinnati on May 13, 1783. Returning to civilian life, Shaw turned to commerce to resolve his debts and make his fortune. In December 1783, he agreed to sail to China as the agent of merchants Robert Morris of Philadelphia and Daniel Parker of New York. Shaw proved a capable negotiator. He made four trips to China over eleven years. He served as the new nation's first consul to China from 1786 until his death in 1794. Shaw arranged the production of Cincinnati porcelain on at least three visits to China.

On February 22, 1784, the *Empress of China*, the first American ship in direct trade with China, embarked on the long voyage from New York to Canton. Congress had just ratified the Treaty of Paris, and the passengers and crew must have begun the journey in a spirit of enthusiastic patriotism. Samuel Shaw was aboard as the ship's agent, or supercargo, charged to act on behalf of Morris and Parker, who were eager to profit from trade with the Far East. The Chinese were equally interested in reaching the American market. American demand promised to revitalize the declining market for Chinese porcelain, which was facing stiff competition from European

Cincinnati porcelain with the Fitzhugh border (at left) is the earliest and most widely recognized type. Society of the Cincinnati Collection. The second type (below) has a much more detailed Eagle bearing the laurel wreath that appears on the Eagle medals. This creamer and sugar bowl were recently acquired for the Society's collection.

manufacturers. The *Empress of China* carried a cargo of ginseng, furs, lead and silver. Shaw was to purchase tea, silk, lacquerware and ivory, as well as porcelain, and in particular, "something emblematic of the institution of the order of the Cincinnati executed upon a set of porcelain." No evidence has been found that he had any particular buyers in mind for the first services, but he obtained a sketch of what would become the Society's Eagle insignia prior to his first voyage, perhaps from Pierre L'Enfant, who designed the insignia and the Society membership certificate.[1]

The *Empress of China* arrived in Canton on August 28, 1784. For much of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, Canton was the only Chinese port where Westerners could conduct business. European and the fewer American merchants and agents were restricted to a very narrow area along the banks of the Pearl River where business was conducted in *hongs*, or business houses. Most of the porcelain sold in Canton was made in Jingdezhen, some four hundred miles to the northwest in what may have been the largest industrial complex in the world.[2]

Chinese porcelain was valued for its fine quality and delicate characteristics and had long been popular and fashionable in Europe and the United States. Hard paste porcelain was made with kaolin—a pure white clay—and crushed quartz, which made it smooth and translucent. Porcelain was shaped, fired and glazed in Jingdezhen, where border decorations were typically added. When the porcelain arrived in Canton, often several months later, the foreign merchants and ships' agents could arrange for more detailed decoration, like the Society's insignia, to be added. Chinese painters and enamellers working among the *hongs* could create designs particular to their client's exact specifications.

The most famous and recognizable examples of Cincinnati porcelain are from the first pattern produced in late 1784 or early 1785 and

purchased by George Washington, the Society's first president general. These pieces were executed in the fashionable and ubiquitous blue and white Fitzhugh border pattern of elaborate and whimsical flowers, butterflies, and other Chinese motifs. Thomas Fitzhugh, an official of the British India Company, ordered a porcelain service with this border design in 1780, and his name became identified with this border. Porcelain services with the Fitzhugh border were so popular, in fact, that Chinese artists in Jingdezhen and Canton kept it in stock, ready to be embellished with armorial or other designs when they were commissioned. The central overglaze decoration of the Cincinnati design, however, sets it apart from all others.

"Accept, my dear friend," Shaw wrote to Dr. Townsend, "as a mark of my esteem and affection, a tea set of porcelain, ornamented with the Cincinnati and your cipher."

Shaw was responsible for the design of the central figure on the porcelain. He brought with him on the voyage several engravings and drawings from which the Chinese craftsmen in Jingdezhen and painters in Canton could work. He described his inspiration in his journal:

My idea was to have the American Cincinnatus,

This unusual decoration, featuring two figures of Fame holding an Eagle, was owned by William Eustis, vice president of the Massachusetts Society. Cluthe Collection.

under the conduct of Minerva, regarding Fame, who, having received from them the emblems of the order, was proclaiming it to the world. For this purpose I procured two separate engravings of the goddesses, an elegant figure of a military man, and furnished the painter with a copy of the emblems, which I had in my possession.[3]

Shaw also appears to have travelled with one of Pierre L'Enfant's original sketches for the insignia—L'Enfant would not return from Paris with the first gold insignias until late spring, several months after Shaw departed for Canton. The final design was much simpler than Shaw described. He explained that the Chinese enameller "was unable to combine the figures with the least propriety…I could therefore have my wishes gratified only in part."[4] In the final design, only the winged figure of Fame appears, wearing a green robe and rose-colored drape and blowing her horn while holding the Eagle insignia suspended from a blue and white ribbon.

Shaw departed Canton aboard the *Empress of China* on December 28, 1784, and arrived in New York on May 11, 1785, with sixty-four tons of porcelain, a testament to the popularity of Chinese porcelain in the new nation.[5] The first Cincinnati porcelain arrived several months later in Baltimore aboard the *Pallas*, the second American ship to travel to China—Shaw had purchased a quantity of porcelain so great that it could not fit on the *Empress of China* alone.[6] The Cincinnati china was advertized in the *Maryland Gazette & Baltimore Advertiser* on August 12, 1785. The public announcement must have captured the attention of George Washington, who wrote to his former aide-de-camp and fellow Society member Tench Tilghman in Baltimore that he wanted to acquire a set of the porcelain and if it was sold at auction, direct from the importer, in which case the thrifty Washington noted, "bargains may be expected." Tilghman responded that the prices in Baltimore had been set so high that they exceeded that of imported patterned china in area shops. With no takers at those prices, the entire lot of Cincinnati porcelain was sent to New York and offered for sale the following year.[7]

In July 1786, Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee, an original member of the Society then serving as a delegate to the Confederation Congress in New York, wrote to Washington that the porcelain was available for purchase and that a dinner and tea service of 302 pieces could be acquired for approximately $150—made "doubly valuable & handsome" by the presence of the Society insignia.[8] Washington instructed Lee to complete the transaction and purchased the service from the New York firm Constable, Rucker, & Co. The china arrived at Mount Vernon by October 31, 1786, "without much damage," Washington noted, after a trip by sea from New York to Norfolk and then presumably up the Potomac River.[9] The Society's museum collections currently include three dinner plates and one platter of this first design of Cincinnati porcelain.

This service was owned by Richard Humpton, and original member of the Pennsylvania Society of the Cincinnati. Cluthe Collection.

Samuel Shaw returned to Canton on August 15, 1786, having been appointed consul to Canton earlier that year. By that time, he had received his gold Eagle insignia and was better able to instruct the Chinese enamellers on producing a more exact depiction of both the obverse and reverse of the insignia.[10] Shaw commissioned a dinner and a tea service for himself and at least nine additional tea services commissioned for fellow Massachusetts Society members.

The Cincinnati porcelain of this second design has a plain white background, and the extremely detailed Eagle insignia is painted with green, blue, red, and brown enamels with gilt highlights. There is no wide blue and white Fitzhugh border. Instead they bear a thin gilt and black enamel wave-like border runs around the rim. Unlike the Washington service, the Eagle appears without the figure of Fame and with a double-wreath of green foliage with red berries encircling the Eagle's head. Both the obverse and reverse of the Eagle—bearing different scenes from the life of Cincinnatus—appear on many of the larger pieces of these tea services. A shipping receipt dated January 3, 1791, indicates that Shaw paid $20 for the shipment of nine of these tea services to America.[11] Not all of the recipients have been identified, but they include Henry Jackson, William Eustis, Benjamin Lincoln, Constant Freeman, David Townsend and Henry Knox. The individual sets are each personalized with the owner's initials, or cipher, written in gold script. One deviation is the cipher on Knox's set—"HLK"—which combines his wife Lucy's initials with his own.

Shaw transmitted one of these tea services to his friend Dr. David Townsend with a letter written on December 20, 1790, while Shaw was in Canton on his third trip:

Accept, my dear friend, as a mark of my esteem and affection, a tea set of porcelain, ornamented with the Cincinnati and your cipher. I hope shortly after its arrival to be with you, and in company of your amiable partner, see whether a little good tea improves or loses any of its flavor in passing from one hemisphere to the other.

Below the signature, Shaw listed the forty-five pieces in the tea service: two teapots, two teapot stands, sugar bowl and stand, milk ewer, bowl and dish, six breakfast cups and saucers, and

twelve afternoon cups and saucers. The services owned by Shaw and Henry Knox, however, were considerably larger and included several additional forms.[12] Thirty-eight pieces of Townsend's service survive in the collections of Historic Deerfield in Deerfield, Massachusetts, and more than thirty pieces of Benjamin Lincoln's service are in the collections of the Concord Museum in Concord, Massachusetts. The Society's own collections include five pieces from these tea services—two saucers and a teacup from Benjamin Lincoln's service and a sugar bowl and creamer from Shaw's service.

There are three additional unique designs for Cincinnati porcelain. Much less is known about their origins. William Eustis, who served as vice president of the Massachusetts Society from 1786 to 1810 and again in 1820, owned an unusual second set of Cincinnati porcelain in addition to the tea service he received from Shaw. Distinctive from all other known designs, pieces from this service are decorated with figures of Fame holding the Society insignia suspended from a voluminous blue and white ribbon. The Eagle appears to have been rendered from a combination of sources, with the head and surrounding wreath taken from the gold insignia and the naturalistic wings and talon resembling the earlier L'Enfant sketch of the insignia. A simple, thin blue border with gold stars surrounds each piece. Examples from this service are extremely rare and are in the collections at Winterthur and in a few private collections. Several specialized forms, including coffee cups, suggest that this service was a tea and coffee set numbering fifty pieces or more.[13] It dates from about 1785, suggesting it may have been ordered and produced during Shaw's second trip to China.

Another distinctive design of Cincinnati porcelain was owned by Richard Humpton, an original member of the State Society of the

Cincinnati of Pennsylvania. On each piece of this service, the Eagle insignia is suspended from a blue ribbon with both encircled by a wreath of green enamel leaves. The simple borders consist of a green saw-tooth pattern around the gilt rim and a secondary border of undulating green leaves below. The exact date of this service is not known, but the similarities between this Eagle design, the original L'Enfant sketch of the insignia, and the Eagle design on George Washington's Cincinnati service suggests that it was among the first sets manufactured.

Perhaps the most striking pieces of Cincinnati porcelain are the extraordinary punch bowls owned by Ebenezer Stevens and Richard Varick, both original members of the New York State Society of the Cincinnati, dated between 1786 and 1790. These bowls, measuring approximately sixteen inches in diameter, are decorated with detailed facsimiles of the Society's membership certificate signed by Henry Knox and George Washington. The theatricality of the original diploma design is captured in the allegorical figures of Fame trumpeting the victory of liberty from the clouds and Britannia cowering before the armored American Cincinnatus—images that Chinese artists copied from an original parchment certificate. The polychrome Varick bowl is in the collections of Morristown National Historic Park in New Jersey. The Stevens bowl, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, is executed in black and white, but nonetheless exhibits a virtuosity of craftsmanship and artistic ability. The underside of the Stevens bowl is inscribed "Syngchong," the same name as the Chinese business associate who Samuel Shaw regarded as the "principle porcelain merchant at Canton."[14]

Shaw did not return to America at the end of the 1790 trading season as planned. He returned from his third voyage to China the following year and was on his way west from Bombay by January 1792. Shaw traveled to China for the fourth and final time in February 1793, just six months after his marriage. He arrived in Canton on November 2, 1793, but was soon afflicted by a "disease of the liver incident to the climate."[15] He departed Canton on March 17, 1794, months before he had planned, but died at sea aboard the *Washington* off the Cape of Good Hope on May 30, 1794.

The Society of the Cincinnati Chinese export porcelain will remain among the most important artifacts of the late-eighteenth century trade between China and the newly independent United States of America. In all of its beautiful versions, the porcelain memorializes the patriotism, loyalty, and dedication of the members of the "One Society of Friends" who owned it.

Lindsay E. Borst served as Museum Collections Manager of the Society of the Cincinnati from 2008 to 2011.

1 Josiah Quincy, editor, *The Journals of Major Samuel Shaw, the First American Consul at Canton*, (Boston, 1847), 198-199.
2 "The American China Trade," *American in Britain* 41 (2003), 4-11.
3 *Journals of Shaw,* 198.
4 Ibid., 198-199.
5 Susan Gray Detweiler, *George Washington's Chinaware* (New York: Abrams, 1982), 88.
6 Clare Le Corbeiller and Alice Cooney Frelinghuysen, "Chinese Export Porcelain," *The Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin* 60, no. 3 (2003): 43.
7 GW to Tench Tilghman, August 17, 1785, in W.W. Abbot, ed., *The Papers of George Washington*, Confederation Series, vol. 3 (Charlottesville, 1994), 188.
8 Henry Lee, Jr., to GW, July 3, 1786, in W.W. Abbot, ed., *The Papers of George Washington*, Confederation Series, vol. 4 (Charlottesville, 1995), 147.
9 GW to Henry Lee, Jr., October 31, 1786, in Abbot, ed., *Papers of George Washington*, Confederation Series, vol. 4, 320.
10 Detweiler, *George Washington's Chinaware*, 96.
11 Shipping receipt, January 3, 1791, Samuel Shaw Papers, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston.
12 "The Cincinnati and Their Porcelain: Some Added Reflections," *The Society of the Cincinnati: 1783-1983, A Bicentennial Exhibit at the Peabody Museum of Salem, May –September 1983*, 6-7.
13 John Quentin Feller, "China Trade porcelain decorated with the emblem of the Society of the Cincinnati," *The Magazine Antiques* (October 1980): 764.
14 *Journals of Shaw,* 198.
15 Ibid., 123.

Cincinnati *Fourteen*

Journal of the Society of the Cincinnati
Winter 2007
Volume 44, No. 1

By John Maass, Ph.D.

So Many Convenient Sources at One's Fingertips

MY WEEK AS A RESEARCH FELLOW IN THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI LIBRARY

John Maass, the recipient of the 2007 Tyree-Lamb Fellowship.

In early 2007 I was fortunate to receive the first Tyree-Lamb Fellowship awarded by the Society of the Cincinnati to use its wonderful library in Washington, D.C., as I entered the completion stage of my dissertation as a graduate student at the Ohio State University. My dissertation, "A Complicated Scene of Difficulties: North Carolina and the Revolutionary Settlement, 1776-1789," happened to coincide with an excellent exhibition at Anderson House on North Carolina and the American Revolution, which included several documents on display of which I was unaware and was consequently able to use for my research project.

Without question, this short week was the most enjoyable time I have ever spent doing research. My only disappointment was that I could not stay another week due to teaching responsibilities back in Columbus. The library is the most convenient, user-friendly facility I have ever used in my eight years of graduate work, with an awesome staff that is willing to bend over backwards to help. In fact, what was remarkable to me was how cooperative and cordial the staff was in assisting me with my work, not only in helping me to find things, but also in anticipating what I might need or what might be of value to me to look at—even if I had not thought of it myself. This is a far cry from some other research facilities I have utilized. I particularly commend Ellen Clark and Rebecca Cooper for their enthusiasm, skill and hospitality. By the end of the week, I felt like a part of the "team," rather than a researcher who merely comes in to use the collections. I will always have the warmest of feelings toward the staff and loyalty to the Society, and will continue to encourage others to take advantage of this valuable resource.

The library is the most convenient, user-friendly facility I have ever used in my eight years of graduate work.

I enjoy conducting research, especially finding new things or great secondary sources that are easily accessible and can be gathered together in the form of copies for later use at home. I found so much in the Society's library that I could use, I was delighted. What I found was not so much new manuscripts I had never seen before—although I did locate a few of these, which were quite nice to implant into my dissertation—but the real benefit is what library director Ellen M. Clark calls "one-stop shopping." In other words, they have just about every secondary source and set of published papers one could want, particularly out-of-print books that are not always easy to come by, even at a university library. For example, the library has the published papers of Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Livingston, Madison, Greene, Hamilton, Laurens and Cornwallis; the letters of delegates to the Continental Congress; the official records of about all of the original thirteen colonies; Parliament's debates; Steven's *Facsimiles*; Fortescue's complete history of the British Army; regimental histories; and many other great sources. An added benefit, not always to be found at other collections, is that copies are generally available the same day. (The Southern Historical Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill, for instance, does not offer same-day copy service in its manuscripts room.)

The availability of so many vital, indispensable volumes—both secondary and primary—is really the true value of the library, and sets it apart from so many others, where the collections might be as comprehensive, but are not nearly as convenient and readily accessible. To researchers operating within tight time constraints, this is of enormous benefit. The breadth of the collection is truly impressive, and should be boasted of by the staff as one of its most notable advantages.

Another notable advantage of the library is its location. Being close to a Metro station is very helpful for researchers—particularly graduate students on limited budgets—so I would suggest that this advantage be made well-known as part of the Society's promotion of the Tyree-Lamb Fellowship. Moreover, the proximity to the library of several low-cost restaurants allowed me to be mindful of my budget, as well as minimize the time needed to be outside of the library and away from my primary objective. From other experiences I can attest that not all libraries or collections are conveniently located along these lines.

Finally, though not to be ignored, is the pleasant physical atmosphere of the library. In describing my week there, I have seldom failed to tell anyone who would listen about the lovely aesthetics of Anderson House—I have likened it to conducting research in the private quarters of Blenheim Palace. I can't think of another library I have used that would be considered "posh."

In short, for those working on a scholarly military research project, especially in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, it is well worth

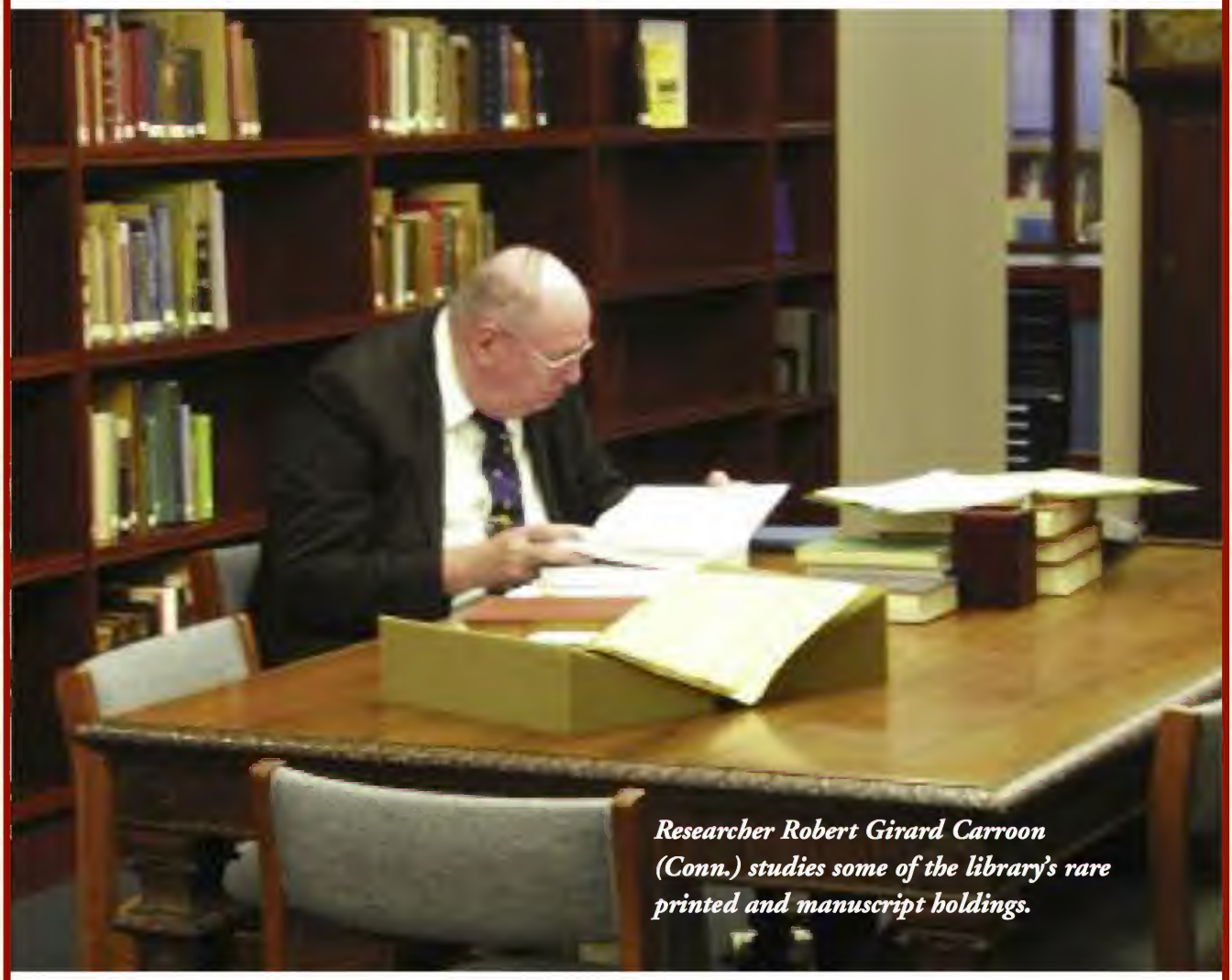
THE TYREE-LAMB FELLOWSHIP

Inspired by leadership gifts from John K. (Lamont) Lamb, Mrs. Lewis Tyree Jr. and the Taylor-Tyree Family Trust, the Tyree-Lamb Fellowship provides $1,000 to support the cost of travel, housing, and per diem expenses for a scholar to use the Society of the Cincinnati Library for a period of at least one full week.

The fellowship is awarded annually on a competitive basis to a graduate-level student or other scholar who is conducting research that may benefit from the library's holdings.

using the Society's library to take advantage of so many convenient sources at one's fingertips. My only regret is that I used the library at the end of my dissertation work, rather than at the beginning. But next time….

John Maass is the 2007 recipient of the Society's Tyree-Lamb Fellowship. He received his Ph.D. in early American history in August 2007 from the Ohio State University; he is now an historian at the U.S. Army Center of Military History at Ft. McNair in Washington, D.C.



Researcher Robert Girard Carroon (Conn.) studies some of the library's rare printed and manuscript holdings.

Journal of The Society of the Cincinnati
Spring 2015
Volume 51, No. 2

CINCINNATI FOURTEEN

Benjamin Franklin *and the* Society *of the* Cincinnati

News of the formation of the Society of the Cincinnati reached Paris in the fall of 1783, but in the first few months, that news consisted mostly of speculation, rumor and misinformation. Many French officers and government officials, as well as members of the diplomatic corps, mistakenly assumed the Society had been created by congress, and that its insignia was a military decoration analogous to the French Order of St. Louis and its equivalent for Protestants, the Order of Military Merit. The first accurate information about the Society arrived with Pierre L'Enfant, who reached Paris in mid-December, bearing letters from George Washington to various French officers as well as a commission from the new Society to have the first insignia produced in Paris.

Benjamin Franklin, United States minister to France, had heard about the Society by the end of 1783, and had read criticisms of the new organization in American newspapers, including ones delivered to him by Capt. John Barry. L'Enfant wrote Franklin a brief note alluding to the Society on January 16, 1784. Then on January 26, Franklin received a copy of the Institution of the Society from John Paul Jones. Jones also gave Franklin a copy of Aedanus Burke's highly critical *Considerations on Society or Order of Cincinnati,* originally published in Charleston, South Carolina, and quickly reprinted elsewhere.

Burke charged that the Society was "a deep laid contrivance to beget, and perpetuate family grandeur in an aristocratic Nobility, to terminate at last in monarchical tyranny." Franklin does not seem to have shared Burke's belief that the Society was a sinister conspiracy to undermine the American Revolution and impose a hereditary nobility on the new nation. In any case, Franklin's position as the senior American diplomat in Europe required him to be more circumspect in expressing his views.

Reading the Institution and Burke's blast against the Cincinnati clearly stimulated Franklin's thinking, and led him to draft a critique of the Society disguised as a letter to his only daughter Sarah Bache. Franklin never wrote to his daughter about politics or public life and never mailed this overtly political essay to her. Nor did he ever send it to the United States or encourage its publication there in any form.

Benjamin Franklin, by Joseph-Seffrein Duplessis (1778). Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Franklin's opinions bore little resemblance to the shrill, paranoid denunciations of Aedanus Burke.

Franklin intended to share his opinions with the Paris salons and French intellectuals. In early March he sent it to the abbe Morellet with the request that he translate the letter into French. Morellet did so, but cautioned Franklin not to make it public. Franklin readily agreed, but in July 1784 he shared it with the comte de Mirabeau, who included sections of the letter without attribution in his *Considerations sur l'ordre de Cincinnatus* (London, 1784).

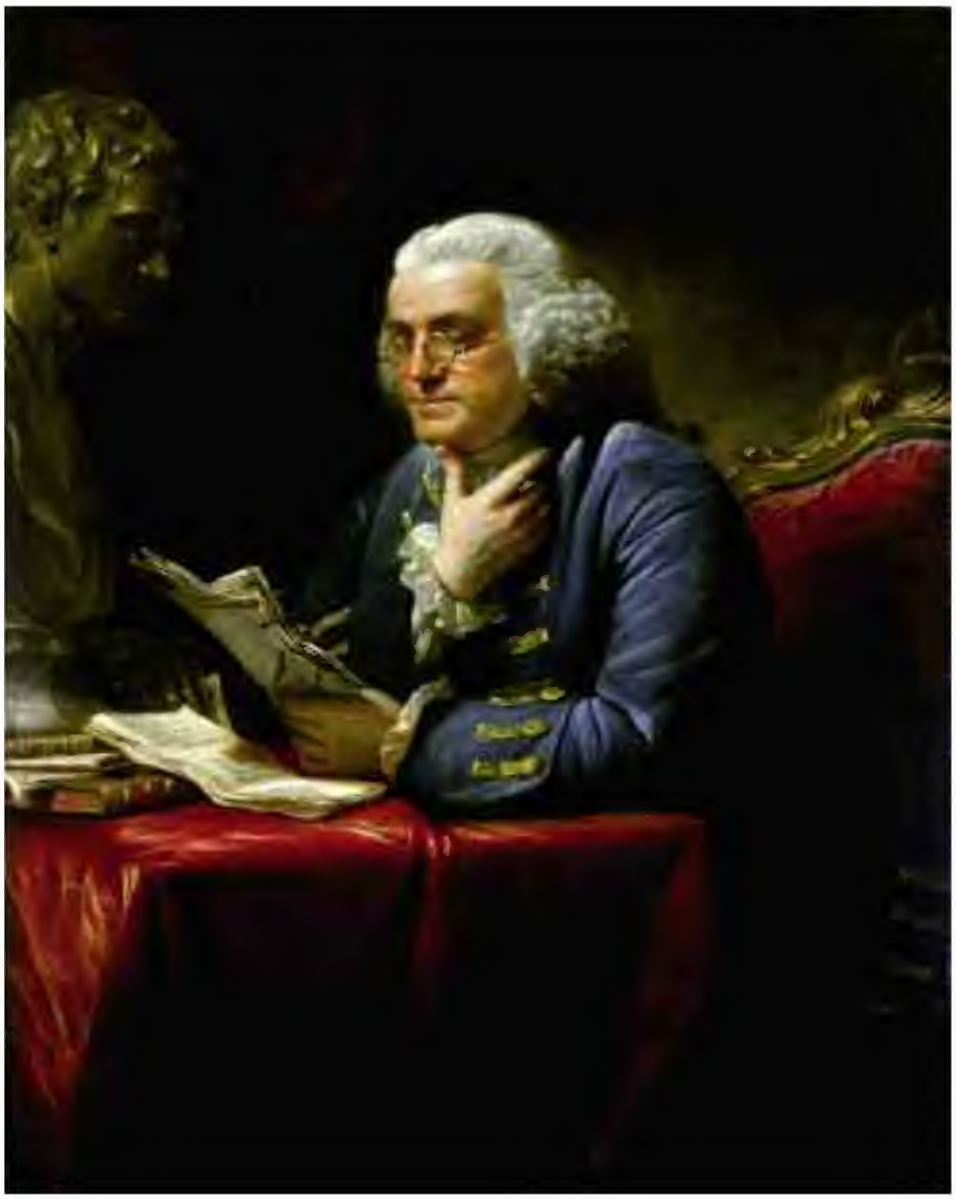
Franklin's opinions on the Cincinnati bore little resemblance to the shrill, paranoid denunciations of Aedanus Burke and his imitators. Franklin did not subscribe to the view that the founders of the Society were attempting to subvert American republicanism and erect an aristocracy on its ruins. He properly regarded the Society as benign, but saw in the Society's hereditary principle an opportunity to attack the pretensions of Europe's hereditary aristocracy.

By 1784 Franklin was a political radical, intellectually engaged with overturning the established order of European society. He regarded the American Revolution in a broader context than most Americans, and saw it as a first step toward the reorganization of Western society on the basis of liberty and equality. He looked forward to a society in which all social distinctions would be based on accomplishment and merit rather than convention. Overturning American conventions based on hereditary privilege had been relatively easy, because social distinctions in British America had been fewer than in Europe and the social hierarchy far flatter, with few extremes of poverty—slavery the glaring exception—and none of the ostentatious wealth and conspicuous consumption that characterized European aristocrats.

Franklin had no apprehensions about the Cincinnati imposing a hereditary aristocracy or monarchy on the ruins of American republicanism, but he saw in the hereditary aspect of the Cincinnati an opportunity to ridicule the idea of hereditary status, the main prop of aristocratic privilege in Europe—and to do so in an entirely subversive way, by criticizing his own countrymen instead of the hereditary aristocrats of Europe who were his real targets. That Franklin never sought to have his satirical attack on the Cincinnati published in America makes his real targets abundantly clear. Unlike Aedanus Burke and his followers, Franklin had no interest in seeing the Cincinnati outlawed.

Franklin's satire was inspired by his recent reading in *Mémoires concernant l'histoire, les sciences et les arts des Chinois* (15 volumes, Paris, 1776–1791) by Joseph Marie Amiot, a French Jesuit priest who resided at the imperial court in Beijing from 1750 until his death in 1793. Little known today, Amiot's *Mémoires* provided the West with its first detailed account of the life and thought of imperial China. "This world is the reverse of our own," Amiot advised Lord Macartney, a British ambassador. The *Mémoires* are filled with descriptions of social inversion, including the practice of honoring the parents, rather than the progeny, of distinguished men.

Warming to his topic, Franklin skewered, with an equal measure of mathematical precision and evident delight, the idea of honor descending through several generations of a family. He demonstrates that after several generations, the blood of the original members is much diluted, and with it any claim a future member might have to the honor of his ancestor. Franklin's target in this passage is the idea of hereditary nobility. The Society of the Cincinnati is merely a



When Franklin sat for this portrait by David Martin in 1767, he was attired like a scholarly but otherwise conventional eighteenth-century gentleman. By the 1784 he had abandoned such conventions, signaling his rejection of the traditions of aristocracy, including the idea of hereditary honor.

Pennsylvania Academy Fine Arts. Gift of Maria McKean Allen and Phebe Warren Downes through the bequest of their mother Elizabeth Wharton McKean.

convenient foil for an attack on the pretensions of European aristocrats to superior virtue due to descent from some illustrious ancestor.

What Franklin missed, of course, was that the founders of the Society had enjoined their posterity to *merit* the honor by carrying out the mission articulated in the Institution: "to perpetuate . . . the memory of that vast event." Membership alone neither confirms nor conveys honor to future generations. It simply provides descendants of the officers of the Revolution with the *opportunity* to honor their ancestors by perpetuating the memory of their sacrifices and celebrating their achievements. Even a thinker as progressive as Franklin could not have foreseen the unique role the Society of the Cincinnati would play in future generations.

The Pennsylvania Society of the Cincinnati made Franklin an honorary member in 1789, a fitting honor for the civilian who had done more than

any other to secure the independence of the United States. By then Franklin was in declining health. He died in Philadelphia at the home of his daughter on April 17, 1790. His funeral procession was the largest ever seen in Philadelphia. The *Pennsylvania Gazette* for April 28, 1790, estimated that at least 20,000 people witnessed the spectacle. Franklin's fellow printers had the honor of marching first behind the casket, followed by the members of the American Philosophical Society and the physicians of Philadelphia. The Society of the Cincinnati followed close behind.

The text of Franklin's letter below is from the new and definitive edition of *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, volume 41(September 16, 1783-February 29, 1784), pages 503-511, edited by Ellen R. Cohn, *et al.,* and published by the Yale University Press in 2014. This text, which is based on Benjamin Franklin's own retained copy, differs slightly from the frequently published text, which is based on the printed version edited by Franklin's son William Temple Franklin. The differences are chiefly in punctuation, spelling and paragraph breaks, but William Temple Franklin—a Loyalist during the Revolutionary War, deleted his father's aspersion on Royalists and made a few other minor changes. This is the text of the letter as Benjamin Franklin wrote it.

Passy, January 26, 1784
My Dear Child,

Your care in sending me the news-papers is very agreeable to me. I received by Captn. Barney those relating to the *Cincinnati*. My opinion of the institution cannot be of much importance. I only wonder that, when the united wisdom of our nation had, in the Articles of Confederation, manifested their dislike of establishing ranks of nobility, by authority either of the Congress or of any particular State, a number of private persons should think proper to distinguish themselves and their posterity, from their fellow citizens, and form an order of hereditary Knights, in direct opposition to the solemnly declared sense of their country. I imagine it must be likewise contrary to the good sense of most of those drawn into it, by the persuasion of its projectors, who have been too much struck with the ribbands and crosses they have seen hanging, to the buttonholes of foreign officers. And I suppose those who disapprove of it, have not hitherto given it much opposition, from a principle somewhat like that of your good mother, relating to punctilious persons who are always exacting little observances of respect, that, *"if People can be pleased with small matters, it is a pity but they should have them."* In this view, perhaps I should not myself, if my advice had been asked, have objected to their wearing their ribband and badge themselves according to their fancy, though I certainly should to the entailing it as an honour on their posterity. For honour, worthily obtained, as that for example of our officers, is in its nature a personal thing, and incommunicable to any but those who had some share in obtaining it. Thus among the Chinese, the most antient, and from long experience the wisest of nations, honour does not *descend,* but *ascends*. If a man from his learning, his wisdom, or his valour, is promoted by the emperor to the rank of Mandarin, his parents are immediately entitled to all the same ceremonies of respect from the people, that are established as due to the Mandarin himself; on the supposition that it must have been owing to the education, instruction and good example afforded him by his parents, that he was rendered capable of serving the public. This *ascending* honour is therefore useful to the state, as it encourages parents to give their children a good and virtuous education. But the *descending honour,* to a posterity who could have no share in obtaining it, is not only groundless and absurd, but often hurtful to that posterity, since it is apt to

"I wish . . . the Cincinnati . . . would direct the badges of their order to be worn by their fathers and mothers, instead of handing them down to their children."

make them proud, disdaining to be employed in useful arts, and thence falling into poverty, and all the meannesses, servility and wretchedness attending it; which is the present case with much of what is called the *Noblesse* in Europe. Or if, to keep up the dignity of the family, estates are entailed entire on the eldest male heir, another pest to industry and improvement of the country is introduced, which will be followed by all the odious mixture of pride, and beggary, and idleness, that have half depopulated and decultivated Spain; occasioning continual extinction of families by the discouragements of marriage, and neglect in the improvement of estates. I wish, therefore that the Cincinnati if they must go on with their project, would direct the badges of their order to be worn by their fathers and mothers, instead of handing them down to their children. It would be a good precident and might have good effects. It would also be a kind of obedience to the fourth commandment, in which God enjoins us to *honour* our father and mother, but has nowhere directed us to honour our children. And certainly no mode of honouring those immediate authors of our being can be more effectual, than that of doing praise worthy actions, which reflect honor on those who gave us our education; or more becoming than that of manifesting by some public expression or token, that it is to their instruction and example we ascribe the merit of those actions.

But the absurdity of descending honours is not a mere matter of philosophical opinion, it is capable of mathematical demonstration. A man's son, for instance, is but half of his family, the other half belonging to the family of his wife. His son too, marrying into another family, his share in the Grand son is but a fourth; in the great grandson by the same process it is but an eighth. In the next generation a sixteenth; the next a thirty-second; the next a sixty-fourth; the next an hundred and twenty-eighth; the next a two hundred and fifty-sixth; and the next a five hundred and twelfth. Thus in nine generations which will not require more than 300 years, (no very great antiquity for a family), our present Chevalier of the Order of Cincinnatus's share in the then existing knight, will be but a 512th part; which, allowing the present certain fidelity of American wives to be insured down through all those nine generations, is so small a consideration, that methinks no reasonable man would hazard, for the sake of it, the disagreeable consequences of the jealousy, envy, and ill will of his countrymen.

Let us go back with our calculation from this young noble, the 512th part of the present Knight, through his nine generations till we return to the year of the institution. He must have had a father and mother, they are two; each of them had a father and mother, they are four. Those of the next preceding generation will be eight; the next sixteen, the next thirty two; the next sixty four; the next one hundred and twenty eight; the next two hundred and fifty six; and the ninth in this retrocession five hundred and twelve, who must be now existing and all contribute their proportion of this future Chevalier de Cincinnatus. These, with the rest, make together as follows.

2
4
8
16
32
64
128
256
512
1022

One thousand and twenty two men and women contributors to the formation of one knight. And, if we are to have a thousand of these future knights there must be now and hereafter existing

"The bald eagle . . . is by no means a proper emblem for the brave and honest Cincinnati of America."

one million and twenty two thousand fathers and mothers who are to contribute to their production, unless a part of the number are employed in making more knights than one. Let us strike off then the 22000 on the supposition of this double employ, and then consider whether, after a reasonable estimation of the number of rogues and fools, and Royalists and scoundrels, and prostitutes, that are mixed with and help to make up necessarily their million of predecessors, posterity will have much reason to boast of the noble blood of the then existing set of Chevaliers of Cincinnatus. The future genealogists too of these Chevaliers in proving the lineal descent of their honor through so many generations, (even supposing honor capable in its nature of descending,) will only prove the small share of this honor which can be justly claimed by any one of them, since the above simple process in arithmetic makes it quite plain and clear, that, in proportion as the antiquity of the family shall augment, the right to the honor of the ancestor will diminish; and a few generations more would reduce it to something so small as to be very near an absolute nullity. I hope therefore that the order will drop this part of their project, and content themselves, as the Knights of the Garter, Bath, Thistle, St. Louis, and other orders of Europe do, with a life enjoyment of their little badge and ribband, and let the distinction die with those who have merited it. This I imagine will give no offence. For my own part, I shall think it a convenience when I go into a company where there may be faces unknown to me, if I discover, by this badge, the persons who merit some particular expression of my respect; and it will save modest virtue the trouble of calling for our regard, by awkward roundabout intimations of having been heretofore employed as officers in the continental service.

The gentleman who made the voyage to France to provide the ribbands and medals has executed his

Le Dindon (The Turkey) and *Aigle* (Eagle), engraved by François-Nicolas Martinet (the former with the assistance of his brother Alexandre) for his *Ornithologie: Histoire des Oiseaux Peints dans Tous Leurs Aspects Apparents et Sensibles* (Paris: for the engraver, 1787-1796). Martinet's ornithological engravings were among the finest depictions of birds published before Audubon. His work was well known to Franklin, and indeed Martinet had provided a line engraving of Franklin based on the Chamberlin portrait for a 1773 edition of Franklin's works.

commission. To me they seem tolerably done; but all such things are criticised. Some find fault with the Latin, as wanting classical elegance and correctness; and since our nine universities were not able to furnish better Latin, it was pity, they say, that the mottos had not been in English. Others object to the Title, as not properly assumable by any but General Washington, and a few others who served without pay. Others object to the bald eagle as looking too much like a *Dindon* or turkey. For my own part I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our country. He is a bird of bad moral character. He does not get his living honestly. You may have seen him perched on some dead tree, where, too lazy to fish for himself, he watches the labor of the fishing hawk; and, when that diligent bird has at length taken a fish, and is bearing it to his nest for the support of his mate and young ones, the bald eagle pursues him, and takes it from him. With all this injustice he is never in good case; but, like those among men who live by sharping and robbing, he is generally poor and often very lousy. Besides, he is a rank coward: the little *king bird* not bigger than a sparrow, attacks him boldly and drives him out of the district. He is therefore by no means a proper emblem for the brave and honest Cincinnati of America, who have driven all the *king birds* from our country, though exactly fit for that order of knights, which the French call *Chevaliers d'Industrie*. I am on this account not displeased that the figure is not known as a bald eagle, but looks more like a turkey. For in truth, the turkey is in comparison a much more respectable bird, and withal a true original native of America. Eagles have been found in all countries, but the turkey was peculiar to ours, the first of the species seen in Europe being brought to France by the Jesuits from Canada, and served up at the wedding table of Charles the ninth. He is besides, (though a little vain and silly tis true, but not the worse emblem for that) a bird of courage, and would not hesitate to attack a grenadier of the British guards who should presume to invade his farmyard with a red coat on.

I shall not enter into the criticisms made upon their Latin. The gallant officers of America may not have the merit of being great scholars, but they undoubtedly merit much as brave soldiers from their country, which should therefore not leave them merely to *fame* for their *virtutis premium,* which is one of their Latin mottos. Their *esto perpetua,* another, is an excellent wish, if they meant it for their country; bad, if intended for their order. The states should not only restore to them the *omnia* of their first motto, which many of them have left and lost, but pay them justly and reward them generously. They should not be suffered to remain with all their new created chivalry, *entirely* in the situation of the gentleman in the story, which their *omnia reliquit* reminds me of. You know every thing makes me recollect some story. He had built a very fine house and thereby much impaired his fortune. He had a pride however in showing it to his acquaintance. One of them after viewing it all, remarked a motto over the door OIA VANITAS. What says he is the meaning of this OIA? 'tis a word I don't understand. I will tell you said the gentleman: I had a mind to have the motto cut on a piece of smooth marble, but there was not room for it between the ornaments, to be put in characters large enough to be read. I therefore made use of a contraction antiently very common in Latin manuscripts, whereby the *m's* and *n's* in words are omitted, and the omission noted by a little dash above, which you may see there, so that the word is OMNIA, OMINIA VANITAS. O said his friend, I now comprehend the meaning of your motto, it relates to your edifice; and signifies, that, if you have abridged your *omnia* you have nevertheless, left your VANITAS legible at full length.

I am as ever your affectionate father
B F

Cincinnati *Fourteen*

Journal of the Society of the Cincinnati

Fall 2006

Volume 43, No. 1

How Many Members Have Been Presidents of the United States?

Most Cincinnati probably know that George Washington was the first, but not the only, Society member to have served as president of the United States. But just how many members *have* been U.S. presidents? The answer may be surprising.

George Washington and James Monroe were the only two original members to have served as presidents of the United States. Washington, the Society's first president general, was considered a member "at large," while Monroe was a member of the Virginia Society.

The first honorary member to serve as U.S. president was Andrew Jackson, who was admitted into the New York Society in 1819, a full decade before taking office as president. Jackson was honored for having defeated the British at New Orleans as a major general during the War of 1812. Minor Myers notes in *Liberty without Anarchy* that the societies of "New York and Pennsylvania had used the eagle more or less as a military decoration during the War of 1812"—so it should be no surprise that New York bestowed the honor of membership on Jackson, who was a revered war hero at the time.

Zachary Taylor was also admitted as an honorary member of the New York Society before being elected president of the United States. He was admitted in 1847, two years before his presidential term began. Interestingly, Taylor could have joined as a hereditary member if the Virginia Society had not been dormant during those years.

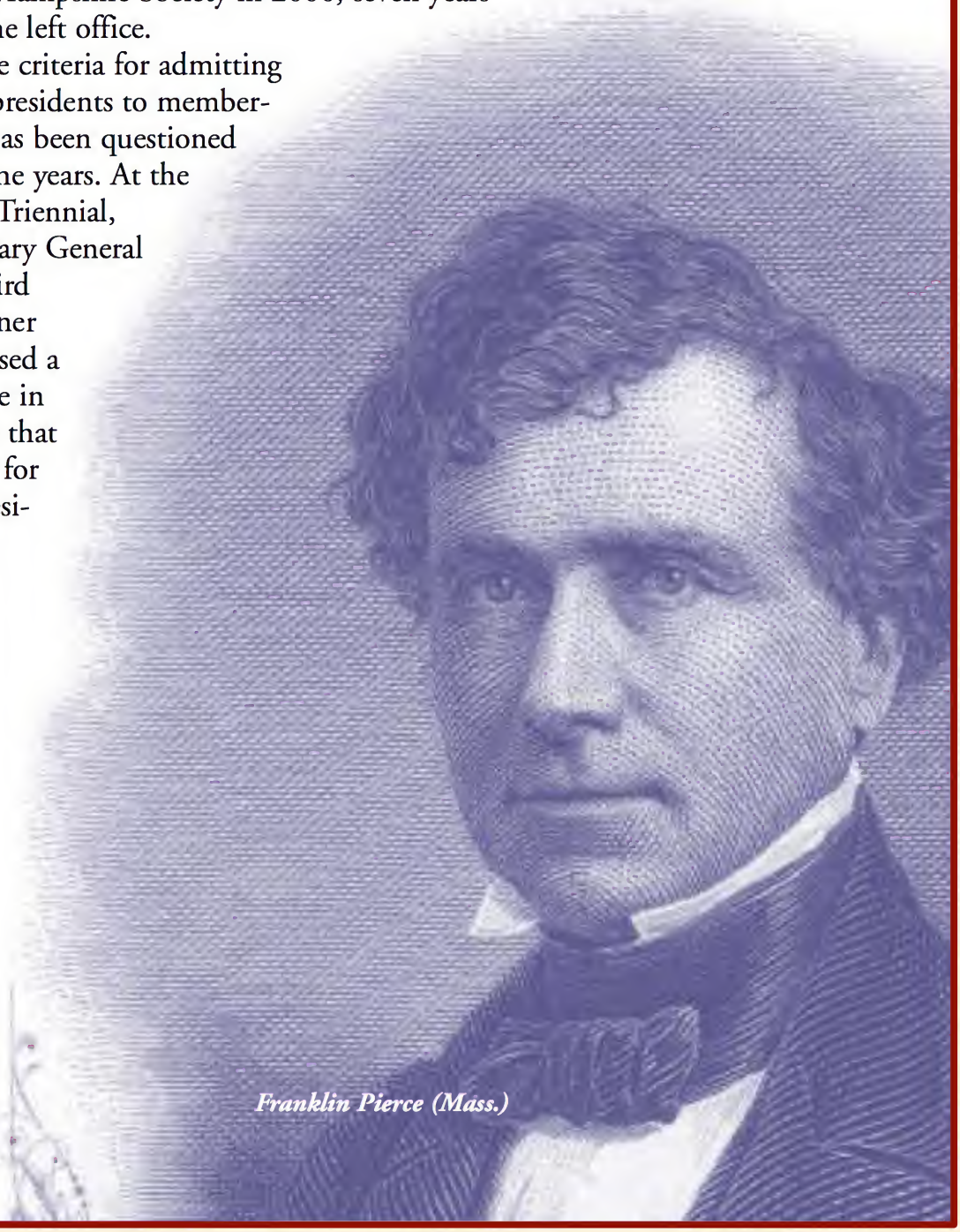
The only U.S. president who *did* join the Society as a hereditary member was Franklin Pierce, who represented his father, original member Benjamin Pierce, a lieutenant in the Massachusetts Continental line. Like Jackson and Taylor, Pierce was admitted to membership before he took office. He joined the Massachusetts Society in 1852, just a few months before his 1853 inauguration. Pierce is listed in the 1857 Triennial proceedings as having been a delegate to that meeting, which took place in Boston.

The first U.S. president to become a member while in office was James Buchanan, who was admitted as an honorary member of the New York Society in 1859, right in the middle of his four-year term. Nine other presidents—Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Woodrow Wilson, Warren G. Harding, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry Truman and Ronald Reagan—were also admitted as honorary members while in office. From this list Woodrow Wilson holds an unusual honor: in 1913 he was elected to not one, but *three* con-

stituent societies. He became an honorary member in North Carolina and South Carolina, as well as in his home state of Virginia.

The remainder of our presidential members were admitted after the close of their terms. Ulysses S. Grant, who left office in 1877, was made an honorary member of the New York Society in 1884. Grover Cleveland, who left office in 1897, was made an honorary member of the same society in 1907. The Connecticut Society elected Herbert Hoover to honorary membership in 1949, more than a decade after he left office. The most recent U.S. president to have been a Society member is George Herbert Walker Bush, who was admitted as an honorary member of the New Hampshire Society in 2000, seven years after he left office.

The criteria for admitting U.S. presidents to membership has been questioned over the years. At the 1890 Triennial, Secretary General Asa Bird Gardiner proposed a change in policy that called for all presidents, both



Franklin Pierce (Mass.)

French and American, to be admitted as honorary members of the General Society. According to Minor Myers the plan was approved unanimously, but, for unknown reasons, was never put into effect. The only U.S. president to have been named an honorary member of the General Society was Ronald Reagan.

So who will be the twentieth member of the Society of the Cincinnati to serve as president of the United States? Will the honor be granted to a president who is already known? Or does today's Society have a future president within its ranks? Only time will tell.

Rebecca Cooper
Manager of Reader Services

The Society Has Had Nineteen Presidential Members (U.S.)

U.S. President	Membership	Society	Year Admitted	Presidential Term
George Washington	Original	At Large	1783	1789–97
James Monroe	Original	Va.	1783	1817–25
Andrew Jackson	Honorary	N.Y.	1819	1829–37
Zachary Taylor	Honorary	N.Y.	1847	1849–50
Franklin Pierce	Hereditary	Mass.	1852	1853–57
James Buchanan	Honorary	N.Y.	1859	1857–61
Ulysses S. Grant	Honorary	N.Y.	1884	1869–77
Benjamin Harrison	Honorary	Pa.	1889	1889–93
William McKinley	Honorary	Pa.	1897	1897–1901
Theodore Roosevelt	Honorary	N.Y.	1902	1901–09
Grover Cleveland	Honorary	N.Y.	1908	1893–97
William H. Taft	Honorary	N.J.	1909	1909–13
Woodrow Wilson	Honorary	Va., N.C., S.C.	1913	1913–21
Warren G. Harding	Honorary	N.J.	1921	1921–23
Franklin D. Roosevelt	Honorary	N.Y.	1934	1933–45
Harry S. Truman	Honorary	Va.	1945	1945–53
Herbert Hoover	Honorary	Conn.	1949	1929–33
Ronald Reagan	Honorary	General	1983	1981–89
George H.W. Bush	Honorary	N.H.	2000	1989–93

Journal of The Society of the Cincinnati
Spring 2014
Volume 50, No. 2

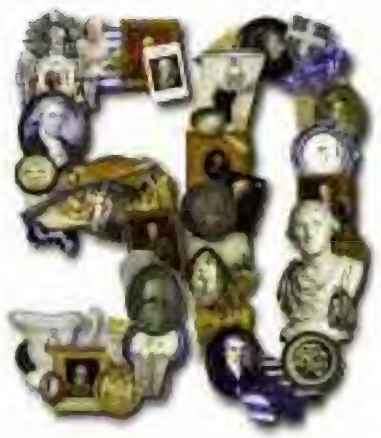
CINCINNATI FOURTEEN

FOURTEEN
NATI FOURTEEN
NATI FOURTEEN
NATI FOURTEEN

FOURTEEN AT FIFTY

by Glenn Hennessey

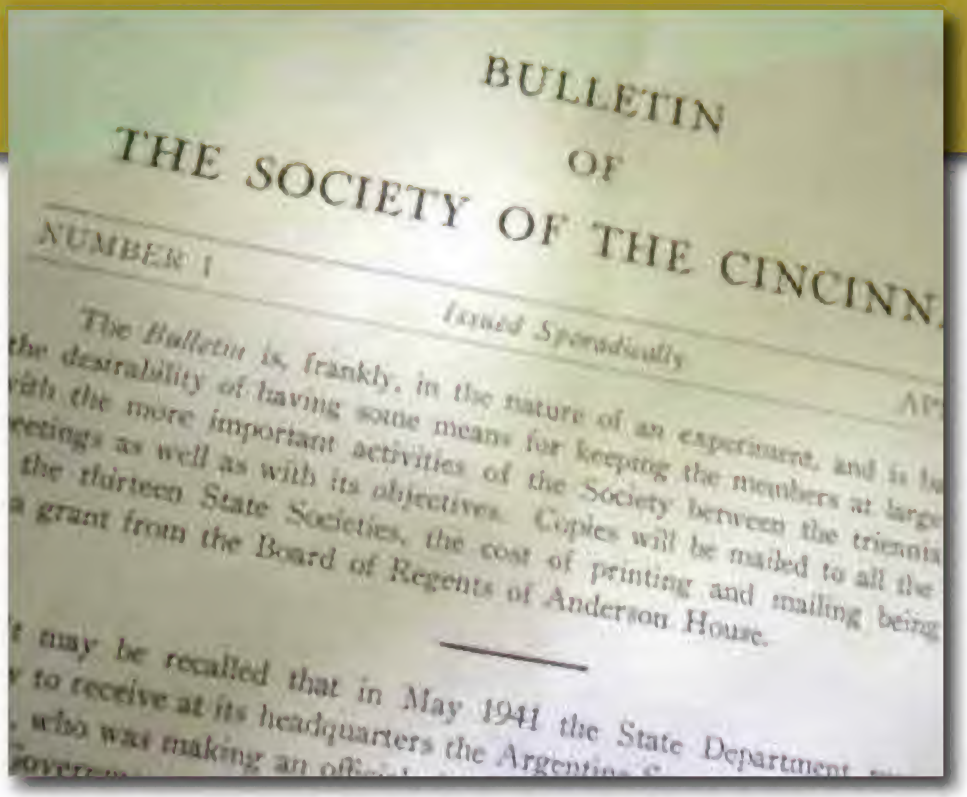
"Issued Sporadically." The masthead of the first issue of the *Bulletin of the Society of the Cincinnati,* published in April 1943, was as candid as the design was plain. But it was a start. The Society had acquired an international headquarters in 1938 and was beginning to forge a common identity, fulfilling the Society's informal motto, "One Society of Friends." The Second World War had interrupted this process. The Society had loaned Anderson House to the Department of the Navy for the duration of the war. Without a headquarters, the leaders of the General Society reasoned that a periodical—however sporadic—might help unify the members of the thirteen state societies. There could have been no thought of sending the little *Bulletin* to occupied France.



The *Bulletin* consisted of eight pages of black type bound with staples. Its purpose was described in the first issue: "The *Bulletin* is, frankly, in the nature of an experiment, and is based upon the desirability of having some means for keeping the member at large in touch with the more important activities of the Society between the triennial general meetings as well as with its objectives." That first issue discussed the war effort and the use of Anderson House by the navy. It included *Rules for Wearing the Eagle and Other Insignia of the Society of the Cincinnati,* issued by President General Bryce Metcalf pursuant to a resolution of the 1941 Triennial. It also included a message from the president general to the citizens of France, "once more under the cruel domination of a ruthless race of tyrants." Half a page was devoted to announcements: the annual banquet for 1942 had been held in New York, the *Bulletin* explained, because the federal government discouraged social gatherings in Washington. No banquet would be held in 1943. The General Society was nonetheless determined to forge on. The *Bulletin* included an appeal for portraits of past General Officers and portraits and artifacts of original members. The first issue even included excerpts from the correspondence of several early members.

Issued Occasionally

The *Bulletin* was a distant ancestor of *Cincinnati Fourteen,* and its' simple purpose—keeping members in touch with the Society and its


BULLETIN
OF
THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINN
NUMBER 1
Issued Sporadically
The Bulletin is, frankly, in the nature of an experiment, and is
the desirability of having some means for keeping the members at large
with the more important activities of the Society between the triennia
meetings as well as with its objectives. Copies will be mailed to all the
the thirteen State Societies, the cost of printing and mailing being
a grant from the Board of Regents of Anderson House.
t may be recalled that in May 1941 the State Department
to receive at its headquarters the Argentine
who was making an

The Society's first experiment with a newsletter produced only six issues from 1943 to 1948—none more than eight pages in length.

activities—is the purpose of modern *Cincinnati Fourteen.* But there is no link between the *Bulletin* and today's ambitious magazine. True to its masthead, the *Bulletin* was "Issued Sporadically" for a few years—four issues in all. Then the masthead was changed to the something more promising: "Issued Occasionally." Unfortunately only two such occasions seem to have presented themselves. After those two occasional issues, the *Bulletin of the Society of the Cincinnati* quietly expired.

In 1956 the General Society Standing Committee resolved to start issuing a new bulletin to acknowledge donations to the museum, provide "information of general interest," and announce the admission of new members. This new bulletin was to be managed by the secretary general. But nothing came of this resolution for several years. In 1963 the idea was revived, and another resolution adopted. This time a member—a young Princeton graduate recently admitted to the Pennsylvania Society named H. Bartholomew Cox—had stepped forward to edit the new publication.

Happy Birthday to Us

In the spring of 1964—exactly fifty years ago—the General Society made good on its own resolutions and launched *News of the Society of the Cincinnati*, a twice-yearly newsletter distributed free to every member. It was printed on glossy stock in blue ink (Cincinnati blue, of course) and featured the Eagle atop the masthead. It even included photographs—four small images from the recent tri-state meeting in Charleston. *News of the Society of the Cincinnati* was only four pages long and consisted mostly of brief announcements, including a notice that comte Raymond Courbis, the son of a French member, would be attending a summer program at Harvard as part of the General Society's new "Study Travel Fellowship"—the Society's first exchange program and the genesis of today's French and American Scholars Program.

Unlike its sporadic and occasional forebears, *News of the Society of the Cincinnati* was published twice yearly. The Eagles changed from time to time and the ink color shifted from one blue to another, to black and then back to blue, then black again, but the format remained the same. It appeared regularly—not sporadically or occasionally. It was a genuine periodical. And it began to achieve the goal of the old *Bulletin.*

It helped to build a stronger sense of community between the members of the fourteen constituent societies. In 1972 the General Society introduced a new name for the periodical. "We have solicited news from the fourteen societies," the editor explained, "which has given us the name for the publication: *Cincinnati Fourteen.*

A Colorful New Era

In 1979 the General Society Standing Committee directed the assistant secretary general to "proceed with a public relations campaign, using *Cincinnati Fourteen* to reach all members and to keep them better informed of Society programs." To that end, the committee resolved "that the size of the newsletter be expanded." Assistant Secretary General Michael Miller, elected in 1980, carried out this new mandate.

The first issue of the new *Cincinnati Fourteen* was a handsome six by nine inches in size, twenty-eight pages long and included a full color cover and a color image inside. Published in December 1981—shortly after the bicentennial of the Siege of Yorktown—the cover featured a painting of General Rochambeau. Inside was a reproduction of John Trumbull's *The Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown.* Both images were from the collections of other institutions, and necessarily so, since the Society's collections were still modest in 1981. Today our rich collections supply most of the images we use in *Cincinnati Fourteen.*

In the 1980s, *Cincinnati Fourteen* reflected the excitement associated with the Society's two hundredth anniversary, and in the 1990s it documented the Society's growing interest in education, the extraordinary renovation of Anderson House, and the growth of the Society's collections. The format changed again in 1998 when, for the first time, the task of laying out the materials collected by the assistant secretary general was turned over to a professional. Carol Ann

Nelson, a desktop publishing specialist, designed a new look for *Cincinnati Fourteen* that lasted for five years, during which the "newsletter" outgrew its stapled binding and acquired a spine.

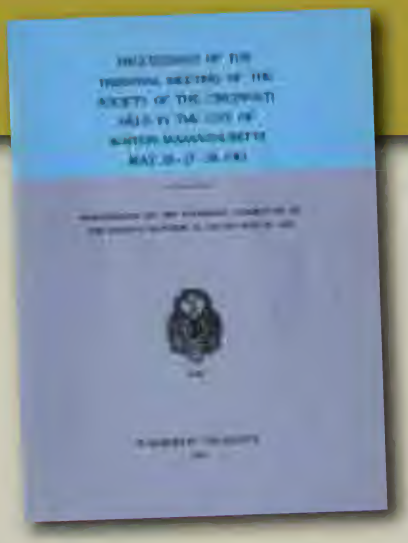
Journal of the Society

By 2002 *Cincinnati Fourteen* was no longer a newsletter. Assistant Secretary General "Skid" Masterson persuaded the standing committee to designate *Cincinnati Fourteen* the "Journal of the Society of the Cincinnati." More importantly, he hired a new designer—Glenn Hennessey—and oversaw a major redesign. The fresh format was adopted, with a cleaner type design. The dated

white covers with photographs inside boxes were abandoned in favor of full-bleed, four-color images on every cover. The cover was printed on textured stock and inside, a single color (rotating through a palette of rich tones issue by issue) provided visually unity. What had been black and white photos in earlier years became rich duotones. Full color pages began to appear with greater frequency, until finally in 2009 the entire journal was printed in full color.

The liberal use of color and the increasing importance of graphic imagery set the stage for the most recent transformation of *Cincinnati Fourteen.* In the summer of 2010, Assistant Secretary General Pless Lunger, Executive Director Jack Warren and designer Glenn Hennessey agreed to recast *Cincinnati Fourteen* as a large format publication, eight and a half by eleven inches to the page, consisting of as many as 124 pages—enriched with four-color images throughout—and a larger type font for easier reading. "The new *Cincinnati Fourteen* has been redesigned to make it more visually engaging," readers learned. "The larger format makes it possible for us to include more illustrations and more ambitious articles. Our aim is to get *Cincinnati Fourteen* off of your bookshelves and on to your coffee tables—though we intend to provide material of such lasting value that you will want to save every well-thumbed copy."

Additions to the latest iteration of *Cincinnati Fourteen* include new regular features. In "My Propositus," a member discusses his officer-ancestor. In "Modern Cincinnatus," we focus on a modern member whose contributions to the life of our organization reflect the high ideals of the Society. *Cincinnati Fourteen* is no longer the Society's only means of communicating with members. Since 2005 the Society has issued richly illustrated and informative annual reports. More recently the Society launched an extensive Internet website, with changing features and a members-only area. Members now get periodic mailings on Society programs and even email announcements on upcoming events. Communication between the Society and its far-flung members has never been richer. Electronic media has been growing in importance, and undoubtedly will continue to do so. But the Society is unlikely to abandon paper and ink any time soon. *Cincinnati Fourteen* has been changing and growing for half a century, and it will continue to evolve with the remarkable Society it serves.



NOTES FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY, OCTOBER 13, 1962 TO MAY 26, 1965

May 4, 1963

The President General said that in visiting the State Societies he had heard expressions to the effect that these Societies do not know what is going on in the General Society. He felt that if a way could be found to generate and edit a news letter at least twice a year information regarding the activities of the General Society could in this way be dispersed to the State Societies and to individual members. It was suggested that the Secretaries of the State Societies might be asked to send in items of interest for the news letter.

Colonel Jones said that he and Colonel Metcalf had started a news letter, but they had found it difficult to get the cooperation of the State Societies. Mr. Hatch felt it would be worth while making another try and asked that thought be given to the question of whether there was anyone in the Washington area who could take the available material and whip it into shape.

Colonel Lippett reported that he had attended meetings of the New Jersey, North Carolina, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and New York Societies. In going about he had been asked questions as to what is going on in the General Society. This, he said, highlights the importance of the idea of a news letter. The State Societies are definitely interested in what the General Society is doing.

October 26, 1963

Referring to the proposed news letter, discussed at the Spring meeting, Mr. Hatch reported that Henry Bartholomew Cox, a young Princetonian and a member of the Pennsylvania Society, had agreed to undertake the editing job if it was decided to go ahead with the letter. Mr. Hatch expressed the belief that such a letter would spread the word of Anderson House and contribute to the realization of the federal possibilities for our Society. He recommended that the project be authorized, with the hope that the first issue of the letter would be ready for distribution in March or April.

Major Fornance moved that the Society undertake to issue a news letter, as proposed, and that Mr. Cox be assigned to take charge of it. The motion was duly seconded and carried.

The first issue of a regularly published newsletter, called *News of the Society of the Cincinnati,* debuted in May 1964.

NEWS OF
The Society of the Cincinnati

February 1965 "A young French count and his recent bride…were entertained at dinner one evening by Mr. William R. Raiford…then were taken to Annapolis, Baltimore and the famous Bay Bridge….and while in New York, of course, went to the World's Fair."

"In the death of Sir Winston Churchill The Society of the Cincinnati has lost one of the most distinguished of its long line of distinguished members, which began with General Washington."

Virginia member Richard Blackburn Black planting the Society flag at the South Pole was depicted in December 1965.

December 1967 "It is with deep regret that the *News Letter* announces the death of First Lieutenant Robert L. Fergusson on November 7th, of wounds received October 8th in action in Vietnam."

December 1966: "This world-famous house contains and exhibits free to the public certain memorabilia of that distant yet significant moment when the fledgling United States designated itself a responsible nation."

1964

1965 1966 1967

May 1964 "Mr. Francis Hatch, President General, has mentioned his project of collecting at Anderson House publications of the Society's living author-members…the returns are most gratifying. 'This project will show that the interests of the Society are not limited to antiquarian matters.'"

"Mr. Irving Caywood Hanners, the Secretary General, reports that there are now approximately 2,100 members in the thirteen State Societies and approximately 150 in the French Society. This total of 2,250 is very close to the original membership which numbered 2,269."

Coverage of the 1965 Triennial included these photos of Francis Hatch, Charles Lippitt, Frank Chisholm and their wives.

June 1971 The newsletter was given a new moniker for this issue which was never to be seen again: *Plough Shares*.

"North Carolina's distinguished Archie K. Davis stood stalwartly above the Cincinnati blue of the tablecloth adorning the head table and charmingly pulled the historical legs of the sister societies (mostly Virginia's—with tongue-in-cheek jabs at her many 'first claims in history') to the great delight of all."

"The presentation of a plastic toy plow to Frank Chisholm was accompanied by the following poem:

Cincinnatus, we are told
Left his plow in days of old
Left his plow, his daily work,
For higher duty he could not shirk.
Our Frank has served us for three years,
For this we give three mighty cheers,
And give him also this little plow,
As he returns to less glamorous duties now!"

August 1968 From a review of member Joseph Mitchell's book, *Discipline and Bayonets*: "The Continental soldier left home and, through patriotism alone, served often under a cloud of worry about things at home, with his services belittled by those who had no taste for the war. (There are certain parallels in the Vietnam situation today.)"

Vignettes of a Triennial: "Whimsical reference by French Ambassador at final dinner to the effect that his office might be ephemeral, due to crisis in Paris."

The February 1972 newsletter was the first to use the title *Cincinnati Fourteen*.

Cincinnati Fourteen

October 1972 "The original roster of the New York Society is being transferred to the Anderson House museum where the vault is completed and ready for use. The deaths of several members—including John Edgar Hoover—were observed by a moment's silence."

"The Maryland Society has ordered new neckties—'slightly wide...in keeping with the present day style.' The cost is $6 each."

French President d'Estaing, an honorary member, accepted an Eagle from PG Harry Hoyt when he visited the United States in 1976.

1968 1969 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976

The Immutable Principles made their first appearance in October 1972.

August 1969 "In a letter written in the 1940s, Mrs. Isabel Anderson, donor of Anderson House, recounted to a former PG, 'We sometimes had kitchen parties and one day President Taft sent word he would like to come to one, which he did.'"

December 1969 "HUD Secretary George Romney gave a reception at Anderson House which was attended by Chief Justice Warren Burger and Attorney General John Mitchell. Vice President Spiro Agnew entertained the Shah of Iran at luncheon."

October 1975 "As we go to press there is news of one of the most significant gifts ever made to the Society. Edmund Strudwick (N.C.) and his cousin, Henry Larson presented a silver tankard, circa 1770, by the noted silversmith Myer Myers."

"The Maryland Society plans a mint julep party on 13 September (the report does not record whether the mint is to be crushed or bruised)."

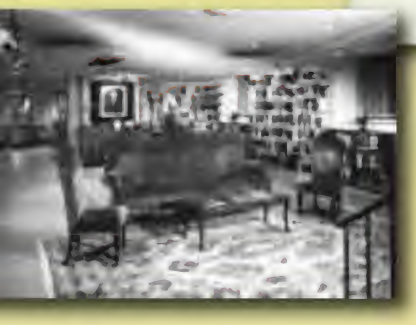
November 1982
New members and recently deceased members were listed for the first time.

May 1983 issue: President Ronald Reagan, standing beside PG John du Mont, shakes the hand of past PG Armistead Maupin, Sr.

October 1977
From a letter supporting strict membership qualifications:
"The apocryphal advice offered by a Georgia peanut planter may fit—'If it ain't broke, don't fix it!'"

A major redesign in 1981 saw the first use of color images and a new smaller size.

The library was shown off in 1981.



First Lieutenant Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson was honored with a cover in 1983.

1977 1978 1979 1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985

This Sheraton dining chair was made for George Washington and donated with Anderson House. It was thought lost for 30 years. Its' story was told in 1980.

May 1983 "Our library, with more than 10,000 volumes and an extensive collection of maps and manuscripts, is becoming a definitive collection on the Revolutionary period. It grows daily."

Past PG and Mrs. Harry Hoyt and PG and Mrs. Catesby Jones graced a cover in 1984.

October 1991 "When William Willey bought a Revolutionary War uniform at a barn sale, he never realized he had purchased a small heart pinned to the coat, determined to be one of three, and only three, purple hearts ever awarded by Washington."

An Eagle-adorned stained glass window at Yale enlivened an issue in 1988

October 1995 "I will wear the Diamond Eagle proudly, not because I am personally entitled to it but as the surrogate for all who adhere to the principles for which our Society stands." —William McGowan Matthew

The Diamond Eagle made for a dazzling cover image in 1987.

PG Fred Graham at a reception with Bart and Hannah Cox in 1993.

1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995

Spring 1986 "Washington's Birthday has become a generic holiday which allows furniture stores to have weekend doorbuster sales. The serious aspects of this holy day are all but lost."—Catesby Jones

October 1986 "Computer installed at Anderson House."

PG Frank Mauran, Rev. Rhys Williams and Philippus Miller V pose in front of Cincinnatus on the balcony in 1991.

May 1997 "It's rather unusual for two warships belonging to two different nations to have the same name. Even more unusual is for those two ships to meet and work together on the high seas." From a story on the American destroyer USS *Comte de Grasse* joining the French frigate *De Grasse* on an anti-submarine exercise.

Fall 2003 "Two very significant changes have occurred with this fortieth volume. *Cincinnati Fourteen* is now the 'Journal of the Society of the Cincinnati.' We begin the first issue with a new graphic designer, Glenn A. Hennessey."

The new design introduced in 1998 was the first laid out on a computer.

2003 saw a significant new format design.

Library construction was highlighted in 1996.

1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2

May 1996
From *Building for Our Third Century:* "The basement is a beehive of activity as it has gone from a pile of rubble to a skeletal form of what it is to become. The ship grows tighter with each day."

The Paris Triennial was featured in 2001.

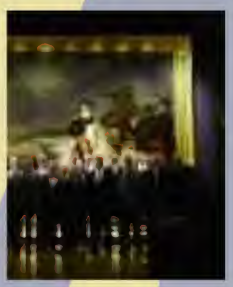
Spring 2004 "The American Revolution was made by British subjects, individual men and women who, by our modern sense of proportions, were amazingly few in number." —David McCullough, 2004 Clark lecturer.

Fall 2010 "*Cincinnati Fourteen* began as a newsletter, barely larger than a church bulletin. As our activities increased, it grew and changed, from an eight-page newsletter to a journal regularly exceeding one hundred pages, documenting the activities of our organization and working to stimulate the interest of our members in our War for Independence and the history of our Society."

The present magazine format was unveiled in Fall 2010.

Acquisitions for the museum and library and high quality photos of members are all shown to greater advantage in the new, larger format.

The Society's growing collections became ever more important to the page layouts, like this one in 2006.



2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

Scott Johnson at the 2010 Cox Book Prize presentation.

An important image wrapped around the covers of the Fall 2012 issue.

Cincinnati *Fourteen*

Journal of the Society of the Cincinnati
Fall 2006
Volume 43, No. 1

ASK THE OFFICERS

Q: "How do I wear the eagle and other insignia of the Society?"

Past President General William Russell Raiford answers: Only one of the three insignia of membership in the Society—the eagle, the miniature eagle or the rosette—should be worn at any one time. It has never been the intent of anyone to tell members how they "must" wear the insignia; however, in an attempt to make suggestions to those who are inquiring, the following guidelines are offered:

The Society Eagle

Active members of the armed forces have access to the regulations of their respective service, and these regulations specify the manner and times for wearing decorations on the uniform, both duty and formal. Bryce Metcalf, the Society historian and long-serving president general, researched the issue in 1943 and, according to the resulting guidelines he established, "where no mode of wearing is specified, then [wear] as nearly as practicable in accordance with the Society's regulations."

William Francis Price Jr. (N.Y.) and Hollis Warren Merrick III (N.H.) show how to wear the eagle with white tie.

For former or retired members of the armed forces or for persons never having been associated with the services, the eagle of the Society may be worn on a ribbon around the neck "only with civilian full evening dress," according to Metcalf. But today, as fewer gentlemen wear white tie and the substitution of black tie seems to be gaining more general acceptance,

it seems appropriate to allow the eagle to be worn around the neck with either white tie or black tie. This variance is not intended to be a change of Metcalf's guidelines, but only an allowable addition at the discretion of the member. If the eagle is worn with black tie and is not suspended on a ribbon around the neck, it should be worn on the upper left pocket of the jacket.

Insignia should be worn on the upper left lapel of business suits, as President General Norfleet, William Clay Howe (Conn.) and Rev. Robert Girard Carroon (Conn.) do here.

The Miniature Eagle

Miniature decorations, including the miniature eagle of the Society, may be worn with white tie or black tie and should be positioned on the upper left lapel of the jacket. If, while wearing miniatures, a member desires to give a place of honor to the full-sized eagle of the Cincinnati, he may wear it around the neck, but only with civilian full dress (white tie). Miniature decorations are never worn with business suits or blazers.

The Rosette

The boutonnière, or rosette, is worn with a business suit or blazer, or with white tie or black tie, "but may never be worn at the same time with the eagle or badges of any other society, or with any decoration."

Journal of The Society of the Cincinnati
Fall 2011
Volume 48, No. 1

CINCINNATI FOURTEEN

How Well Do You Know Your Society?

Members of the Society of the Cincinnati come to membership from varied backgrounds and through different routes. Often the descendants of original members come by membership at the introduction of their fathers or grandfathers. Newer members, whose claims are based on the Rule of 1854, may come to membership through an interest in history or perhaps even genealogy. Whichever path reflects your own personal situation, we all are quite proud to be members of our "one society of friends." Oddly enough, many members know very little (beyond a cursory knowledge) about the actual history of the organization that they have joined. To let you gauge for yourself where you might rank as an historian of the Society, please take a few minutes to take the following quiz (answers provided at the end for self-grading).

Bryan Scott Johnson
Chairman, History Committee

1. Which of the following pairs were among the first of the constituent societies to be organized?

A. Massachusetts / New York
B. Rhode Island / Connecticut
C. New Jersey / South Carolina
D. Georgia / Pennsylvania

2. Which of the following was the last constituent society to form?

A. Delaware
B. Georgia
C. North Carolina
D. New Hampshire

3. All of the constituent societies EXCEPT which of the following, became dormant in the 19th century?

A. Maryland
B. Connecticut
C. Virginia
D. Rhode Island

4. Which constituent society today has a member whose propositus had no active military service?

A. New York
B. South Carolina
C. France
D. Delaware

5. Who was the last president general to have actually served in the Continental Army during the War for American Independence?

A. Morgan Lewis
B. Aaron Ogden
C. Edgar Erskine Hume
D.William Popham

6. How many vice presidents general have risen to the position of president general due to the death of their predecessor?

A. 2
B. 3
C. 1
D. None of these is correct.

7. Which of the following is the most prolific historian of the Society of the Cincinnati with more than fifteen published articles on various aspects of the Society's history?

A. Bryce Metcalf
B. Minor Meyers, Jr.
C. Edgar Erskine Hume
D. Wallace Evans Davies

8. Which constituent society has supplied more presidents general than any other?

A. South Carolina
B. Massachusetts
C. Virginia
D. New York

9. Which constituent society has never supplied a president general?

A. Maryland
B. Connecticut
D. France
D. New Jersey

10. At their dissolution in the 19th century, which of the following two constituent societies donated their financial assets to local colleges?

A. Delaware / Virginia
B. Georgia / New Hampshire
C. Rhode Island / New Jersey
D. Virginia / Connecticut

11. The basis for the Society of the Cincinnati, the Immutable _____, are described in the Society's _____.

A. Ideals / constitution
B. Standards / by-laws
C. goals / statutes
D. Principles / Institution

12. The idea for the Society of the Cincinnati originated with:

A. George Washington
B. Frederich Wilhelm von Steuben
C. Horatio Gates
D. Henry Knox

13. Currently the Society of the Cincinnati has approximately how many members?

A. 3000
B. 3400
C. 2900
D. 3800

14. Which of the following pairs represent the largest and smallest constituent societies?

A. North Carolina / Connecticut
B. France / Rhode Island
C. Virginia / Delaware
D. Massachusetts / Georgia

15. Members of the Society of the Cincinnati comprised what percentage of the delegates at the Constitutional Convention in 1787?

A. 47
B. 19
C. 38
D. 51

16. The early public resentment of the formation of the Society of the Cincinnati was generated primarily by a 1783 pamphlet authored by who?

A. Aedanus Burke
B. George Clinton
C. the Comte de Mirabeau
D. Thomas Jefferson

17. Anti-Society of the Cincinnati sentiment in the late eighteenth century was most evident in which area?

A. New York
B. the southern states
C. New England
D. Pennsylvania and Delaware

18. What are (is) the only constituent societies (society) that do (does) not recognize the Rule of 1854?

A. Pennsylvania
B. South Carolina
C. New York
D. A and C

19. Who was the only woman ever officially authorized to wear the Eagle of the Society of the Cincinnati?

A. Martha Dandridge Washington
B. Isabel Perkins Anderson
C. Sarah Middleton Pinckney
D. Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton

20. Which is the only constituent society to provide its state with their state motto?

A. South Carolina
B. New Jersey
C. Pennsylvania
D. Delaware

21. If you wanted to see the Eagle of the Society of the Cincinnati George Washington ordered for himself, where would you go?

A. Château de la Grange-Bléneau
B. Smithsonian Institution
C. Anderson House
D. Mount Vernon

22. The Diamond Eagle was presented to George Washington by:

A. the French Society
B. officers of the French Navy
C. Comte de Rochambeau
D. Marquis de La Fayette

23. Which original member of the Society of the Cincinnati changed the name of Losantiville, Ohio, to its present name of Cincinnati (to honor his society and the veterans who received bounty land in Ohio)?

A. Nathaniel Greene
B. Daniel Morgan
C. John Eager Howard
D. Arthur St. Clair

24. Who presented the Diamond Eagle to the General Society and established our present tradition of it being worn as a badge of office by the sitting president general?

A. Alexander Hamilton
B. Charles Cotesworth Pinckney
C. Hamilton Fish
D. Bryce Metcalf

25. Which president of the United States was the only member of the Society of the Cincinnati to gain membership through the hereditary provision?

A. Franklin Pierce
B. James Monroe
C. Benjamin Harrison
D. Zachary Taylor

26. Which gentleman served the longest term as president general?

A. Bryce Metcalf
B. Hamilton Fish
C. George Washington
D. Edgar Erskine Hume

27. Who designed the Eagle and diploma of the Society of the Cincinnati?

A. Pierre Charles L'Enfant
B. Thaddeus Kosciusko
C. Frederich Wilhelm von Steuben
D. Marquis de La Fayette

28. Many members have called Larz Anderson III the Society of the Cincinnati's greatest benefactor. Where is he buried?

A. Richmond, Virginia
B. Cincinnati, Ohio
C. Washington, D.C.
D. Arlington, Virginia

29. In which decade was the only comprehensive history of the General Society of the Cincinnati published?

A. 1920s
B. 1980s
C. 1890s
D. 1970s

30. The Society of the Cincinnati takes it name from which 5th century, B.C., Roman consul?

A. Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus
B. Marcus Publius Cincinnatus
C. Flavius Maximus Cincinnatus
D. None of these is correct.

Quiz Answers

1. Which of the following pairs were among the first of the constituent societies to be organized? **A. Massachusetts / New York**

2. Which of the following was the last constituent society to form? **D. New Hampshire**

3. All of the following constituent societies except **A. Maryland** became dormant in the 19th century.

4. Which constituent society today has a member whose propositus had no active military service? **C. France**

5. Who was the last president general to have actually served in the Continental Army during the War for American Independence? **D. William Popham**

6. How many vice presidents general have risen to the position of president general due to the death of their predecessor? **A. 2**

7. **C. Edgar Erskine Hume** is the most prolific historian of the Society of the Cincinnati with more than fifteen published articles on various aspects of the Society's history.

8. Which of the following constituent societies has supplied more presidents general than any other? **B. Massachusetts** and **D. New York**

9. Which constituent society has never supplied a president general? **D. France**

10. At their dissolution in the nineteenth century, which of the following constituent societies donated their financial assets to local colleges? **D. Virginia / Connecticut**

11. The basis for the Society of the Cincinnati, the Immutable _____, are described in the Society's _____. **D. Principles / Institution**

12. The idea for the Society of the Cincinnati originated with **D. Henry Knox.**

13. Currently the Society of the Cincinnati has approximately **D. 3,800 members.**

14. Which of the following pairs represent the largest and smallest constituent societies? **C. Virginia / Delaware**

15. Members of the Society of the Cincinnati comprised what percentage of the delegates at the Constitutional Convention in 1787? **C. 38 percent**

16. The early public resentment of the formation of the Society of the Cincinnati was generated primarily by a 1783 pamphlet authored by **A. Aedanus Burke.**

17. Anti-Society of the Cincinnati sentiment in the late 18th century was most evident in **C. New England.**

18. What are (is) the only constituent societies (society) that do (does) not recognize the Rule of 1854? **A. Pennsylvania**

19. Who was the only woman ever officially authorized to wear the Eagle of the Society of the Cincinnati? **B. Isabel Perkins Anderson**

20. Which is the only constituent society to provide its state with their state motto? **D. Delaware**

21. If you wanted to see the Eagle of the Society of the Cincinnati George Washington ordered for his own use, where would you go? **A. Château de la Grange-Bléneau**

22. The Diamond Eagle was presented to George Washington by **B. the officers of the French Navy.**

23. **D. Arthur St. Clair,** an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati, changed the name of Losantiville, Ohio, to its present name of Cincinnati (to honor his society and the veterans who received bounty land in Ohio).

24. Who presented the Diamond Eagle to the General Society and established our present tradition of it being worn as a badge of office by the sitting president general? **B. Charles Cotesworth Pinckney**

25. Which president of the United States was the only member of the Society of the Cincinnati to gain membership through the hereditary provision? **A. Franklin Pierce**

26. Which gentleman served the longest as president general? **B. Hamilton Fish**

27. Who designed the Eagle and diploma of the Society of the Cincinnati? **A. Pierre Charles L'Enfant**

28. Many members have called Larz Anderson III the Society of the Cincinnati's greatest benefactor. Where is he buried? **C. Washington, D.C.**

29. In which decade was the only comprehensive history of the General Society of the Cincinnati published? **B. 1980s**

30. The Society of the Cincinnati takes it name from the 5th century, B.C., Roman consul **A. Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus**

Cincinnati *Fourteen*

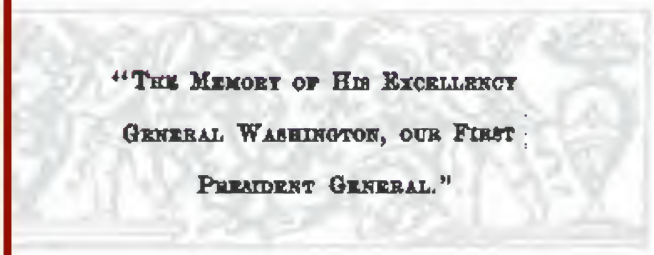
Journal of the Society of the Cincinnati

Fall 2004

Volume 41, No. 1

The Silent Toast to Washington

In the numerous Society references and notes on the many meetings and dinners held over the past two-hundred-plus years by both the individual constituent societies as well as those of the General Society, we find many comments on the many toasts rendered. On July 4, 1800, Society members assembled in Hartford, Connecticut, drank a toast as follows: "The memory of George Washington, our illustrious president general. In life the most beloved and in death the most lamented." Although the source does not indicate that this toast was given in silence, it is the earliest record of a toast being given in Washington's memory.

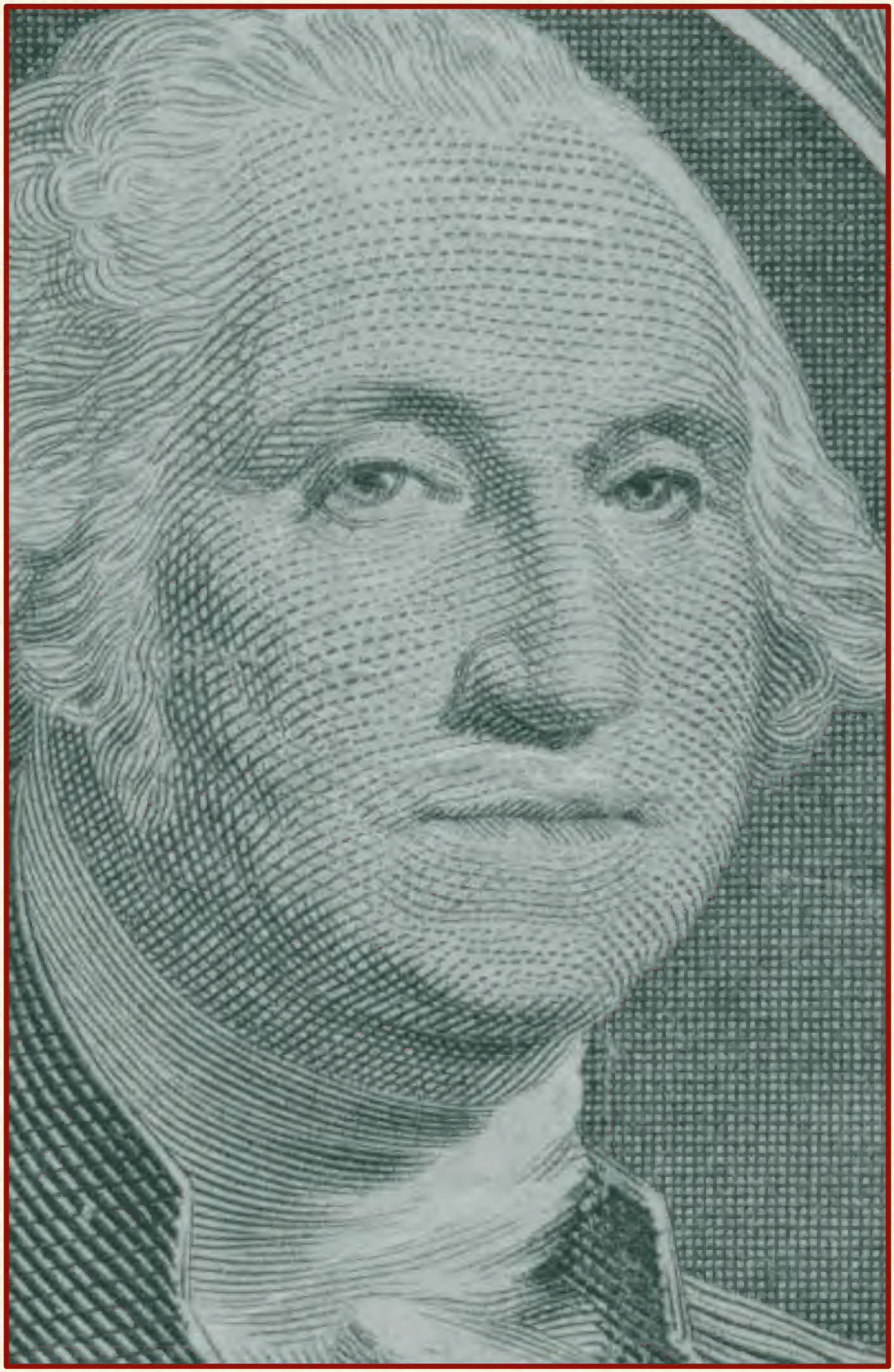

"The Memory of His Excellency General Washington, our First President General."

One of many toasts offered at the Society's centennial celebration of the inauguration of George Washington, April 1889.

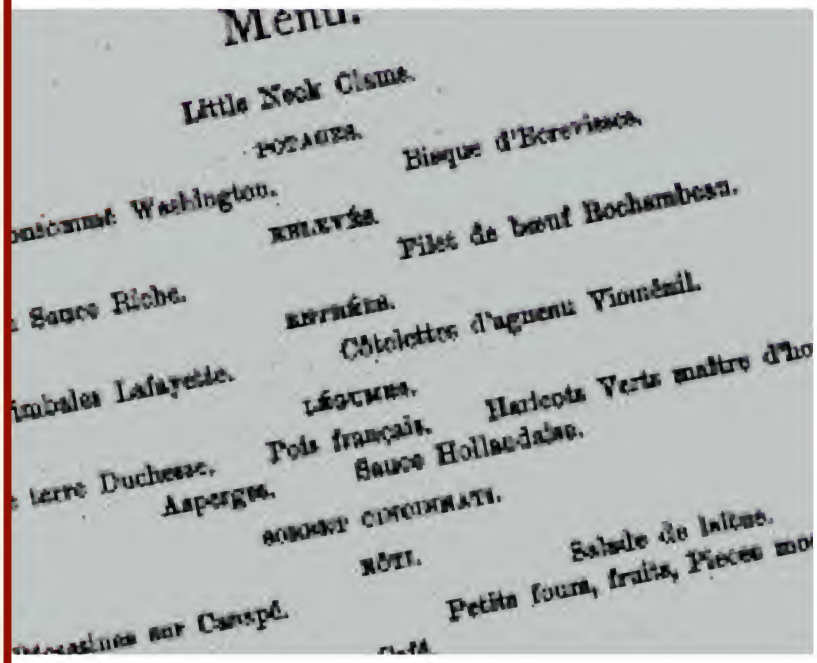
At a dinner held in April 1889 celebrating the Cincinnati and the centennial of the U.S. Constitution, a toast was offered "to the United States of America." A second toast followed, offered to "the memory of His Excellency General Washington, our first president general." According to the notes of the evening, "This toast, in accordance with eighty-nine years, was acknowledged standing in silence." Several references to intervening events between 1800 and 1889 state that the toast was drunk in silence.

Where did this custom originate? Let us go back in time to the final meeting Washington held with his officers, at Fraunces Tavern in New York City, as he was preparing to leave for Annapolis, Maryland, to surrender his commission to Congress and retire to Mount Vernon. The date is December 4, 1783. The narrator is Maj. Benjamin Tallmadge, the senior officer of the Second Continental Dragoons. He described the scene as follows:

"At 12 o'clock the officers repaired to Fraunces Tavern, in Pearl Street, where Gen. Washington had appointed to meet them, and to take his final leave of them. We had been assembled but a few moments, when His Excellency entered the room. His emotion, too strong to be concealed, seemed to be reciprocated by every officer present. After partaking of a slight refreshment, in almost breathless silence, the General



filled his glass with wine, and turning to the officers, he said, 'With a heart full of love and gratitude, I now take leave of you. I most devoutly wish that your latter days may be prosperous and happy as your former ones have been glorious and honorable.' After the officers had taken a glass of wine, Gen. Washington said, 'I cannot come to each of you, but shall feel obliged if each of you will come and take me by the hand.' Gen. Knox being near to him, turned to the Commander-in-Chief, who, suffused in tears, was incapable of utterance, but grasped his hand when they embraced each other in silence. In the same affectionate manner, each officer in the room marched up to, kissed, and parted with his General-in-Chief. Such a scene of sorrow and weeping I had never before witnessed, and hope I may never be called upon to witness again.... Not a word was uttered to break the solemn silence that prevailed."


Menu.

Little Neck Clams.

Bisque d'Ecrevisses.

Filet de bœuf Rochambeau.

Côtelettes d'agneau Vicomtesse.

Pois français.

Sauce Hollandaise.

Salade de laitue.

Detail of menu for the Society's centennial celebration of the inauguration of George Washington, April 1889.

It is now a tradition to offer only one toast, and that in silence. The toastmaster asks the guests to rise and then says, "Ladies and Gentlemen, at each gathering of the Cincinnati, it is traditional that only one toast is given, in silence, to the memory of General Washington."

William Russell Raiford (N.C.)
Past President General